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THE MOST DELECTABLE HISTORY OF REYNARD THE FOX.

THE

MOST DELECTABLE HISTORY

OF

REYNARD THE FOX,

AND OF HIS SON

REYNARDINE.

A REVISED VERSION OF AN OLD ROMANCE.

LONDON:
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.XLIV.

INTRODUCTION.

THE History of Reynard the Fox is one of the most remarkable books of the middle ages: Germany, France, Belgium, and Holland, have contended for its authorship, and the conflicting claims appear to be hardly yet decided. Within these twenty years, libraries have been ransacked for old copies, and very large sums have been expended in the purchase of manuscripts discovered in private collections; a considerable number of editions of ancient versions have been printed, and all this research has been accompanied by much controversy and criticism, in which some of the greatest writers in Germany and Holland have taken part. We do not propose to enter into this discussion, but only to state the uncertainty that exists, and to set down our own opinions.

The balance of evidence upon the whole, inclines us to think that the work, as we now have it, was written by a Fleming or a Dutchman. It is not easy to distinguish between the Flemish and Dutch languages, even now; they differ to our ears little more than the dialects of Somerset and Yorkshire, and the similarity appears to increase as we recede in time.

The oldest manuscript of the romance of Reynard known is in rhyme; it was written soon after the year 1300, and is now in the public library of Stuttgard. It is in this Flemish or Dutch language, and was printed at Delft, in Holland, in the year 1485. Several editions of it have since appeared, though it seems never to have had so much popularity on the continent as the Low German version; probably because the language was not so generally understood. Another copy of this early manuscript was bought by an Englishman at Amsterdam in 1826, and a

few years afterwards sold by auction in London. This was purchased about ten years ago for the King of Belgium, at the recommendation of the learned Belgian Professor Willems, who says that an enormously high price was given for its acquisition. It is now deposited in the Burgundian Library at Brussels, and was made the basis of a new edition in 1834.

Another version appeared in print still earlier, in prose, and in the same language; which has a greater interest for an Englishman, if, as is alleged, it was the original from which our Caxton translated the work published by him in 1481. This *editio princeps* of Reynard was printed at Gouda in Holland in the year 1479, and is of excessive rarity; we have never seen it, but it is said to follow the metrical version very closely. We have no means of judging to which of these two versions the palm of antiquity must be given. It must be understood, that at any time within fifty years after the invention of printing, the date of a printed book is no criterion whatever of originality of authorship; as works were written and published for many years in manuscript only, while others, the authors of which were perhaps better able to afford the expense, were printed as soon as they were completed.

A poetical translation, but with very considerable additions, was made into the language of Northern Germany called *Plattdeutsch*, and printed at Lubeck in 1498, of which edition it is said that the copy in the Wolfenbüttel library is the only one existing. Of this we give the first eight lines, with an English literal version, both as a curiosity, and to shew how readily the old Plattdeutsch runs into English:

It geschah up enen Pinkste dach,
Dat men de wolde un velde sach
Grone stân mit lôf un gras,
Un mannich vogel vrolik was,
Mit sange in hagen un up bomen;
De krûde sproten un de blomen,
De wol rôken hier un dâr:
De dach was schone, dat weder klâr.

TRANSLATION.

It happened on a Whitsun day,
When all the woods and fields were gay,
When all was green in leaf and grass,
And every bird rejoicing was,
With songs in trees and eke in bowers;
The plants were sprouting, and the flowers
Were sweetly smelling here and there;
The day was fine, the weather clear.

The whole book might be readily translated in the same way.

The next version, in point of time, and still earlier in print, is the English one made by Caxton, and printed by himself in 1481. Of this there is a fine copy in the British Museum, as clear after a lapse of three centuries and a half as though it had just issued from the press, and equally legible to one acquainted with the old language and character; for the obsolete words and monkish type render it somewhat difficult to others. This version is said by Grimm to have been translated from the Gouda copy; he perhaps judges from the date of the book, but there is reason to suppose that Caxton translated from a manuscript, as he would hardly have been able at that epoch to procure a book printed in Holland in 1479, translate it into English, and publish it in London in June 1481, which is the date of his book. True it is that Caxton professes to translate from the Dutch, but it is well known that old English writers used this word for the languages both of Germany and Holland, often without distinction, and sometimes with the addition of the words, *high* and *low*. The concluding words of Caxton are, "For I have not added ne mynusshed, but have folowed as nyghe as I can my copye whiche was in Dutche: and by me, Willm Caxton translated in to this rude and symple English in thabbey of Westmestre. Fynysshed the vi daye of Juyn the yere of our Lord MCCCC.lxxxj, and the xxi yere of the regne of Kynge Edward the iiijth."

According to Grimm, the English version was reprinted in 1639, 1667, 1681, 1708, and 1756. These we have not seen, and we are inclined to think they are not reprints of Caxton's translation, which would have become obsolete at the earliest of these dates. Of the first two we know nothing; of the next, 1681, we have a copy, which is not our Reynard, but a continuation only, carrying on the history to the treason and death of the Fox, while all the genuine histories leave him prime minister to the Lion. The one of 1708 is probably the metrical version of that date. The copy on which our present publication is founded, was printed in 1701, a date not given at all in the above enumeration.

All the English copies are professed translations, but the French ones claim to be originals, and they are of undoubted antiquity. There is every probability that one at least existed in French, before the earliest printed edition in Dutch; but considerations into which we cannot here enter, induce us to give the priority to the Dutch versions.

The authorship of the work is nearly as uncertain as all the rest. The Plattdeutsch is said in the introduction to be written by Henrek fan Alkmer, a schoolmaster of Lorraine; and Alkmer has long had the credit of being the original author. But the very existence of this schoolmaster is put in doubt by a subsequent story, which related that the poem was written by Nicholas Baumann, a secretary to the Duke of Jülich, as a satire upon courts, in consequence of having been driven from his office by a base intrigue contrived by one of the courtiers. The Dutch copy professes to be written by Willem die Metoc, of whom we know nothing more; but he is now taking his place in opinion as the real author.

Much of this uncertainty may be ascribed to the unfixed nature of the work itself. It is an incorporation of different stories, all called by the same name, and all having a family likeness; all illustrating the stupidity of the Bear, the ferocity of the Wolf, the cunning of the Fox, and such like qualities. The Fables of Æsop, and others of an oriental

complexion, were more or less blended with the narration, and the whole was probably wandering about Europe, and perhaps Asia, in the popular tales of every village and household long before any one writer took the disjointed members and made of them a continuous tale. Evidence is not wanting to shew that the present form of the story existed in the twelfth century; at least so far as to contain the citation of the Fox to appear before the Lion and answer certain accusations made against him; his excuses to avoid appearing; his cunning to disprove the alleged crime; or rather his flattery of the judge, and the bribes by which he gains a pardon; his subsequent relapse into stealing rabbits and poultry, and his full acquittal by the old test of vanquishing his accuser in single combat, which was so long considered a decisive proof of innocence, through the influence of a prejudice which is by no means gone from us to this day. These are the passages of the old story, but differing in the working up of each writer, and these are found in all the versions that remain to us.

It is not unlikely that translations exist of originals long since destroyed; and the edition of 1701, which forms the basis of our publication, may have been such a one. Of this edition, we shall only say that it contains less of the coarseness of the old time than preceding versions; but that it retained enough of them to render the work inadmissible to the general reader. This has undoubtedly operated to check the popularity of the work in modern times, when a more careful selection of matter is demanded than our ancestors thought necessary. The present publication boasts of being the first that may be read without offence by the most scrupulous, and we trust that in the castigation which it has undergone under our care, none of the real excellence of the tale has evaporated.

We have appended to our history an abridgement of *The Second Part of the History of Reynard*, published in 1681, which carries on the history to the death of the

Fox, and long after. This part, which is wholly English, and found in no other version, is of very inferior merit to the original work, and runs out to a tedious length. In our publication it is considerably condensed, and we venture to say it has gained much by its curtailment.

We have added an abridgement of the *Shifts of Reynardine, the Son of Reynard,* which was published in London in 1684, and intended as a supplement to Reynard.

It has sometimes been objected to the history of Reynard, that the beasts have too much the nature of beasts for a genuine satire on men and their affairs; that the Lion is fierce, the Wolf cruel, the Bear stupid, the Fox sly, and so on of all the other animals.

The fact may be admitted, but we deny the inference; and we contend that in this admixture of animal instinct with human reason, much of the interest lies. Were the beasts portrayed with human passions only, the nature of the apologue would be destroyed; the names of Fox, Wolf, and Lion, would be no more than John, Thomas, and James, and the whole would become a grave piece of history. But the addition of the animal propensities, the seduction of the Cat from his duty, as messenger of the king, by the promise of a feed of mice; the prying of the inquisitive Rook into the Fox's mouth, by which the silly bird lost its head; and the temptation of the cunning Fox himself by the fat Pullet; all this tends to the production of that quiet humour so well understood by La Fontaine, and which constitutes so much of his superiority to our own Gay, whose animals are disguised men. In truth, the beasts are all beasts, if we except the Fox, who is generally an embodiment of cunning, utterly unredeemed by any scruples, never abashed by shame, or stung by remorse.

The work in its present form may have been intended as a satire on courts and governments in general, unless the story be admitted which attributes its particular application to the court of Jülich; and we cannot deny that there

is or was too much truth in it, although exaggerated. But the main and most useful object of this, as of other fables of the Æsopian nature, is to teach by irony, to caution the reader against the tricks of the artful, and the more delusive self-deceits which induce a man to imagine himself brave, generous, or forgiving, when he is only ambitious, calculating, or grasping. The teaching by irony may not be at first so plain to a young reader as that by precept, but it is often not less effective; and such a work as the present, where the irony is so obvious, may serve as an introducer to others, in which it is more hidden. When a reader first finds a deceiver always successful, and the honest suffering for their confidence in him, he may feel somewhat shocked; but he soon finds that the whole is a caricature; that no creature could be so gulled as represented in the fable; he no more feels his sense of justice hurt by the success of this cunning, than he does by witnessing the exhibition of Punch, who beats his wife, throws his child out of the window, kills the doctor, cheats the hangman, and at last triumphs over every body. On a further examination, he finds the Lion deceived by his own avarice, the Wolf by his own greediness, and the others by their own follies or vices, much more than by the cunning of the Fox; although they all endeavour to pass off these vices and follies as virtues, or at least amiable weaknesses. We may perhaps justly apply here the words of our venerable Caxton, who says in his introduction, "This booke is maad for nede and prouffyte of alle god folke, as fer as they in redynge or heeryng of it shall mowe [be able to] understande and fele the forsayd subtyl deceytes that dayly ben vsed in the worlde; not to thentente [the intent] that men shold vse them, but that euerye man shold eschewe and kepe hym from the subtyl false shrewis [evil ways], that they be not deceyuyd."

We have abstained from alluding to any modern translation, with the exception of those into our own language; but we cannot conclude without mention of that made into

German by the celebrated Göthe, as being the one which hitherto has given the truest idea of the spirit of the original work.

We hope we may conclude our introduction to this new version with the words of our first printer in reference to his own, that "for them that understandeth it, it shall be ryght joyous, playsant, and prouffitable."

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THE

MOST DELECTABLE HISTORY

OF

REYNARD THE FOX.

CHAPTER I.—How the Lion proclaimed a great feast at his court, and how Isgrim the Wolf and his wife, Curtise the Hound, and Chanticleer the Cock, made their complaints of Reynard the Fox, and the King's reply.

ABOUT the Feast of Whitsuntide, when the woods were gay and gladsome, and every tree was clothed with the green and white livery of glorious leaves and sweet-smelling blossoms; when the earth was covered with her fairest mantle of flowers, and the joyous birds poured out with delight their harmonious songs; even at this time, at the entrance of the lusty spring, the Lion, the royal king of beasts, resolved to keep open court at his great palace of Sanden, to celebrate the Festival. That end, by public proclamation, he made known over all his kingdom, that upon pain of being held in contempt every one should resort to that great celebration. So within a few days, all beasts, both great and small, came in infinite multitudes to the court, except only Reynard the Fox, who knew himself guilty of so many wrongs against so many beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.

Now when the king had assembled all his court there were few beasts found but made complaint against the Fox, especially Isgrim the Wolf, who being the principal complainant, came with all his kindred, and standing before the king, spoke in this manner: 'My dread sovereign, I humbly beseech you, that from your power and mercy, you will take pity on the wrongs and injuries which that wretch Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family. Know, if it please your majesty, that he came into my house by violence, where, finding my children laid in my quiet couch, he so offensively treated them, that they became blind with his ill usage.

So a day was appointed, whereon Reynard should come to prove himself guiltless of that offence. But as soon as he

was put to the proof, he, being well aware of his guilt, ran instantly into his hole, in contempt both of your majesty and your laws: this, my dread lord, is well known to the noblest beasts in your court. Nor hath his malice stopped here; but in many other things he hath wronged me, which to relate, neither the time nor your highness' patience would allow. I cannot forego my just revenge; but I expect from him amends, and from your majesty mercy.'

When the Wolf had spoken these words, a little Hound, whose name was Curtise, likewise made grievous complaint unto the king against the Fox; saying, that in the extreme cold winter, when the frost was most violent, he being half starved and detained from all manner of prey, had no more left him to sustain life, than one poor pudding, which pudding Reynard had most unjustly taken from him.

But the Hound had hardly said the words, when with a fiery countenance, in sprang Tibert the Cat, who falling down before the king, said 'My lord the king, I must confess the Fox is here grievously accused; yet were the deeds of all other beasts scrutinized, each would have enough to do for its own clearing. Touching the complaint of Curtise the Hound, it was an offence committed many years ago, and though I myself complain not, yet was the pudding mine, and not his; for I got it by night out of a mill, when the miller lay asleep.'

When the Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth, and said, 'Do you imagine, Tibert, that it were just that Reynard should not be accused? why, the whole world knows he is a murderer and a thief, and that indeed he loveth not truly any creature; no, not his majesty himself; but would suffer his highness to lose both honour and renown, so that he might thereby get only so much as the leg of a fat hen. I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kayward the Hare, who now standeth in the king's presence. He promised Kayward that he would teach him to sing *Credo;* so he made him come and sit between his legs, and cry aloud, *Credo, credo.* My way lay thereby, and I heard the song; then coming nearer, I found that Mr Reynard had left his first note, and begun to play his old tricks: for he had caught Kayward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life. O good king, if you suffer this to go unpunished, and let him be free, and if you do not right according to your laws, your princely children, many years hereafter, shall bear the slander of his misdeeds.'

'Certainly, Panther,' said Isgrim, 'you say true; it is fit that they should receive justice who desire to live in peace.'

Then spoke Grimbard the Brock (that was Reynard's sister's son), being much moved with anger: 'Isgrim, you are malicious, and it is a common proverb, "Malice never spake well:" what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I wish ye would agree, that which of you had most injured one another might be hanged as a felon. I tell you, were Reynard here in the court, and as much in the king's favour as you are, it would be your turn to ask mercy. You have many times bitten and torn him with your venomous teeth, and much oftener than I can reckon; yet some instances I will call to my remembrance.

'Have you forgot how you cheated him with the plaice which he threw down from the cart, when you followed aloof for fear? you devoured the good fish, and gave him no more than the bones, which you could not eat. The like you did with the fat flitch of bacon; yourself alone did eat it up, and when my uncle asked for his part, you answered him with scorn, "Fair young man, thou shalt have thy share;" but he got nothing, albeit he won the bacon with great hazard; for the owner came and caught my kinsman in a sack, from whence he hardly escaped with life. Many such injuries hath Isgrim done to Reynard, and I beseech your lordships to judge if they be sufferable.

'Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seems a trifle; for if he will learn to read, and read not his lesson right, who will blame the schoolmaster Reynard, if he give him due correction? If scholars be not chastised, they will never learn.

'Lastly complaineth Curtise that he with great pain had gotten a pudding in the winter, being a season in which victuals are hard to get. Methinks silence would have become him better, for he had stolen it, and *male quæsisti et male perdidisti;* "ill gotten goods never prosper." Who can blame Reynard for taking stolen goods from a thief? It is right, that he who understands the law, should fulfil the law; nay, had he hanged Curtise he had offended none but the king in doing justice without leave, and this for respect to his majesty he did not, though he reap little thanks for his labour. Alas! how do these complaints hurt him! Mine uncle is a gentleman and a true fox; nor can I endure falsehood. Since the king proclaimed peace, he never thought to hurt any man; for he eateth but once a day, and liveth as a recluse. It is a year since he ate any flesh, as I have been informed by those that came but yesterday from him. He hath forsaken his castle, and housed himself in a poor hermitage: hunting he hath forsworn, and his wealth he hath scattered, living only by alms and good men's charities.'

Whilst Grimbard, his nephew, was thus talking, they perceived coming down the hill stout Chanticleer the Cock, carrying upon a bier a dead hen, whose head Reynard had bitten off, and it was brought to the king.

Chanticleer marched foremost, smiting piteously his feet and feathers; whilst on each side of the bier walked two sorrowful hens, of whom one was named Cantart, and the other Cragant; they were two of the fairest hens between Holland and Ardenne, and each bore a tall bright-burning taper. These hens were sisters to Copple, who lay dead upon the bier; and as they walked they cried, 'Alack and well-a-day, for the death of Copple, our dear sister!' Two young pullets bore the bier; who cackled so heartily and wept so loud for the death of their mother, that the hills echoed the cry. When they came into the presence of the king, Chanticleer kneeling down, spoke in the following manner:—

'Great king, vouchsafe to hear our complaint, and to redress the wrongs which Reynard hath done to me and to my children, who stand here weeping. In the month of April, when the weather was fair, I was in the height of my pride and glory; both because of the nobility of my descent, and because of the eight brave sons and seven fair daughters which my wife had hatched, and which were strong and fat, and walked in a well-walled yard, wherein they were guarded by six stout mastiffs, so that my children feared not any evil. But that false traitor, Reynard, often assailed the walls, so that the dogs were let loose upon him, to drive him away. Once they caught him, and made him smoke for it, as his torn skin witnessed, and we were quit of his troubling for a great while after. At last he came again in the likeness of a hermit, and brought me a letter, sealed with your royal signet. In it I found written, that your majesty had proclaimed peace throughout your realm, so that no manner of beasts or birds should do wrong to each other. "Sir Chanticleer," he said, "be not afraid of me from this time forward, for I have made a vow never to eat flesh more. I am now old, and think only of my end." He then departed. At this I was exceeding glad, and clucked my children together, and walked out of the yard with them. But false Reynard, who had lain down under a hawthorn, came creeping between us and the gate, and suddenly seizing one of my little ones, carried it off, to my great sorrow; and having once tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter nor hound can keep him from us. Night and day he watches for us so greedily, that out of fifteen children he has left me only four unslaughtered; and

yesterday Copple, my daughter, who here lieth dead, was dragged from him by a pack of hounds. This is my complaint; and I appeal to your highness to have pity on me, and avenge the death of my fair children.'

Then spoke the king: 'Sir Grimbard, hear you this of your uncle, the recluse? He hath fasted to some purpose; believe me, if I live, he shall dearly abide it. As for you, Chanticleer, your complaint is heard, and shall be redressed; we will consult with our lords how to do you right and justice against the murderer.' Then they sang a dirge, and buried the body, and placed over it a smooth marble slab, polished like glass, upon which the words following were engraved in large letters: 'Here lieth buried Chanticleer's daughter, Copple, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain. Mourn, thou who readest; for her death was unjust and lamentable.'

Then the king sent for his lords and counsellors, to consult how they should punish the murderer. It was determined that Reynard should be summoned to appear before the king, to answer for the crimes alleged against him, and that Bruin the Bear should carry the summons.

The king therefore called the Bear before him: 'Sir Bruin,' said he, 'it is our pleasure that you deliver this message; yet, take great heed; Reynard is full of cunning, and knoweth how to flatter, dissemble, and betray; he hath a world of tricks, and if you use not great judgment he will mock you, though you be the wisest creature breathing.' 'My liege,' answered Bruin, 'let me alone with Reynard; I am not such a truant to discretion, as to become a dupe to his knavery.' Thus, full of jollity, the Bear took his departure; and if his coming back be as jolly as his going, we shall hear of his bragging.

Chapter II.—How Bruin the Bear sped with Reynard the Fox.

THE next morning away went Bruin the Bear in quest of Reynard the Fox, armed against all knavery. Passing through a dark forest, where Reynard had a by-path, to be used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must pass to go to Malepardus. Now Reynard had many houses, but Malepardus was his chief and most ancient castle, and he lived in it both for safety and ease.

When Bruin arrived, he found the gates shut; then he knocked, and called aloud, 'Sir Reynard, are you at home?

I am Bruin, your kinsman, whom the king hath sent to summon you to the court, to answer many foul accusations brought against you. His highness hath taken a vow, that if you fail to obey his summons, your life shall answer for your contempt, and your goods and honour shall be confiscated; therefore, fair kinsman, be advised by your friend, and go with me to the court.'

Reynard, as was his custom, was lying close within the gate for the sake of the sun; and hearing these words, he departed into one of his holes; for Malepardus is full of intricate and curious rooms, through which he could pass as through a labyrinth, when danger threatened. There he mused within himself how he might counterplot and disgrace the Bear, who he knew loved him not, and bring himself to honour. At last he came forth, and said, 'Dear uncle Bruin, you are exceeding welcome; pardon my slowness in coming. He that hath sent you this long and weary journey hath done you no good service; your toil and labour do far exceed the worth of the object. If you had not come, I should have been at the court to-morrow of my own accord; yet I am not sorry that you are come, for at this time your advice may be useful to me. But, my dear uncle, could not his majesty find a meaner messenger than your noble self to do such a trivial business? I wish for your sake we were both already at the court, for I fear I shall be a sore trouble to you in my journeying; sooth to say, since I have abstained from eating flesh, I have taken such strange new meats, that I am much disordered. 'My dear cousin,' said the Bear, 'what meat is this, pray, which so much distempers you?' 'Uncle,' replied the Fox, 'what profit will it be to you to know? It was mean and simple food; we poor fellows are not lords, as you know; we eat that from necessity, which others eat from caprice; it was honey-comb, large and full, and so good, that forced by hunger, I ate greedily. 'Ah,' quoth Bruin, 'honey-comb! do you speak so slightingly of that? why, it is meat for the greatest emperor in the world. Fair nephew, help me but to some of that honey, and command me whilst I live; I will be your slave for ever.' 'Sure, uncle,' said the Fox, 'you do but jest with me.' 'Jest,' replied Bruin, 'beshrew my heart then, for I am in such serious earnest, that for one lick thereof, you shall make me the most faithful of all your kindred.' 'Nay,' said the Fox, 'if you be in earnest, I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it.' 'Not ten of us?' said the Bear, 'that is impossible; for had I all the honey between Hybla and Portugal, I could in a short time eat it up by myself.'

'Well then, uncle,' quoth the Fox, 'there dwelleth near here a husbandman, named Lanfert, who is owner of so much honey, that you could not eat it in seven years; and this I will put you in possession of.' Bruin, mad for the honey, vowed that for one good meal of it, he would not only be Reynard's faithful friend, but that he would stop the mouths of all his foes. The Fox, smiling at his easy belief, said, 'If you want seven tun, uncle, you shall have it.' These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so merry, that he could not stand for laughing.

'Well,' thought the Fox, 'this is lucky; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh to another tune.' And then he said, 'Uncle, we must lose no time, and I will do for your sake that which I would not for any other of my kin.' The Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went; the Fox promising him as much honey as he could eat. At last they reached Lanfert's house, the sight whereof made the Bear rejoice.

Now Lanfert was a stout and lusty carpenter, and he had brought into his yard the day before a large oak, which he had begun to cleave, and had driven into it two wedges, so that the cleft stood wide open. At this the Fox was very glad, and with a smiling face he said to the Bear, 'Behold now, uncle, this tree; there is so much honey within that it cannot be measured; try if you can get into it. But, dear uncle, be careful of yourself, and eat moderately; for although the combs be sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may hurt you, which I would not for the world; for no harm can come to you, but must be to my dishonour.' 'Trouble not for me, nephew Reynard,' quoth the Bear, 'do not think me such a fool that I cannot temper my appetite.' 'It is true, my good uncle, I was too bold. I pray you get in, and you shall find what you desire.' The Bear with all haste thrust his head into the cleft, quite beyond his ears. When the Fox saw this, he pulled the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast therein; where with his scratching and tearing he made such a noise, that Lanfert in amaze came out of his house with a sharp hook in his hand, whilst Bruin lay helpless, roaring and howling within the tree. The Fox, afar off, seeing the man, said mocking to the Bear, 'Is the honey good, uncle? I beseech you do not eat too much. Nice things are apt to surfeit, and it may hinder your journey to the court, if you eat too much; when Lanfert cometh, he will give you some drink to wash it down.' And having said this, he went away to his own castle.

Lanfert, finding the Bear fast in the tree, ran to his

neighbours, and begged them to come into his yard; 'For,' said he, 'there is a Bear fast caught there.' Which being noised throughout the town, there was no man, woman, or child, but ran there; some with goads, and some with rakes, some with staves, and some with stakes, and whatever they could lay hands on. This host put Bruin in great fear, and hearing the noise come thundering about him, he dragged and pulled so hard, that he got out his head, but left behind him his ears and skin; never was a fouler or uglier beast seen; for the blood covered his face and his paws, and his skin and claws being gone, nothing remained but ugliness. The Bear had lost motion and sight; and while in this strait, Lanfert and all the parish came about him, and sorely be-cudgelled him. All fell furiously upon him; there was bandy-legged Houghlin, and long-nosed Ludolf, the one with a heavy bat, and the other with an iron rod; and there was long-fingered Bertolf, and Burkin, and Ablequack, and the friar with his staff, and dame Jullock. But Lanfert and tall Ottram hurt him more than all the rest; the first with his sharp hook, the last with his bent staff, loaded with lead at the end, with which he used to play at ball. All these so belaboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger.

The poor Bear sat and groaned under their blows, of which Lanfert's were the heaviest, till, roused from his swoon, the Bear leaped into the adjoining river, through a bevy of old women, several of whom he threw into the water; among these was dame Jullock. Then her husband, seeing how she floated like a sea-mew, left beating the bear, and cried out, 'Help, O help; dame Jullock is in the water!' On hearing this, every one left the bear to help dame Jullock; while the Bear swam away as fast as he could, overjoyed at his escape; but he bitterly cursed the honey-tree, and the Fox which had betrayed him.

He swam some three miles down the stream, and grew so weary that he went on the bank to rest; where, with blood trickling down his face, he groaned as if his last hour had come.

Whilst these things were doing, the Fox in his way home had stolen a fat hen, and running through a by-path, that no man might see him, he came down upon the river. He felt very gay, thinking that the bear was slain; and said to himself, 'My fortune is as I could wish; for the greatest enemy I had at court is dead, and no man can suspect me to be the cause thereof.' But as he spoke these words, he looked towards the river, and spied Bruin the Bear resting; which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against

Lanfert the carpenter, saying, 'Silly ass that thou art; what fool would have lost such good venison, so fat and so wholesome, and which was taken to thy hand: any man would have been proud of the good luck which thou hast lost.' Thus railing and chiding he came to the Bear, and said, mocking, 'I hope I see you well.' 'O thou foul red villain,' said the Bear, 'what impudence is thine!' But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, 'Dear uncle, I hope you have not forgotten any thing at Lanfert's, and that you paid for the honey; if you did not, it will be very discreditable to you; and rather than your good name should suffer, I will pay for it myself. The honey was indeed very good, and I know of a good deal more at the same price. But, good uncle, what a new fashioned head-dress you wear. Why, when your crown was shaved, your ears were cropped too! and your foretop is lost, and you have no gloves; fie, uncle, you should not go out bare-handed. They tell me you can sing *peccavi* capitally.' These taunts made Bruin mad with rage.

After some little rest, he plunged again into the river, and swam over to the other side, where he began to reflect how he might get to the court. He could not walk, but he must needs go; so at last, forced by extremity, he lay down on his side, and tumbled over and over; and so by degrees, tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the end he tumbled to the court; where divers persons beholding the strange manner of his approach, thought some prodigy was coming.

When the king knew him, he was much enraged. 'It is,' quoth he, 'Sir Bruin, my servant; what villains have wounded him thus?' 'O my dread sovereign liege,' cried Bruin, 'behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you to revenge upon that false Reynard, who, for doing your royal will, hath brought me to this shame and torture.' Then said the king, 'By my crown I swear, I will have a vengeance which shall make the traitor tremble.'

Then the king sent for all his council, and they consulted how and in what way they should proceed against the Fox. It was finally resolved that he should be again summoned to appear and answer the accusations against him, and it was determined that the messenger should now be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity as wisdom. All which pleased the king well.

Chapter III.—How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

THEN the king called for Sir Tibert the Cat, and said to him, 'Sir Tibert, you shall go to Reynard, and summon him the second time to appear and answer for his offences; assure him that if he fail at the next summons, I will take so severe a course against him and his posterity, that his punishment shall be a warning to all offenders.'

Then said Tibert the Cat, 'I beseech your majesty, send some one of greater power; I am small and feeble, and if noble Sir Bruin, that is so strong and mighty, could not bring him, what will my weakness avail?' The king replied, 'It is your wisdom, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength; and many prevail with art, when violence returns with lost labour.' 'Well,' said the Cat, 'since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished; I pray my fortune be better than my heart presageth.'

Then Tibert made ready and set out for Malepardus, and in his journey he saw a raven flying towards him, to whom he cried aloud, 'Hail, gentle bird, turn thy wings and fly on my right hand.' But the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on the left side. Then the Cat grew very heavy, for he was wise and skilful in augury, and knew the omen to be unlucky; nevertheless, he armed himself with better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found the Fox standing before the castle gates.

'Health to my cousin Reynard!' said Tibert; 'the king, by me, orders you to court, and if you fail or delay, there is nothing more certain unto you than a cruel and sudden death.' The Fox answered, 'Welcome, dear cousin Tibert; I obey your command, and wish the king infinite days of happiness. Let me entreat you to rest with me to-night, and take such cheer as my simple house affordeth, and to-morrow, as early as you will, we will go towards the court. There was with me the other day the treacherous knight Sir Bruin the Bear, who looked upon me with that tyrannous cruelty that I would not for the wealth of an empire hazard my person with him; but, my dear cousin, with you I would go were a thousand ills upon me.'

Tibert replied, 'You speak like a noble gentleman, and methinks it is best now to go forward, for the moon shines as bright as day.' 'Nay, dear cousin,' said the Fox, 'let us take day before us; the night is full of fear and danger.' 'Well,' said the Cat, 'if it be your pleasure, I am content; what shall we eat?' Reynard replied, 'Truly my store is small;

the best I have is a honey-comb, both pleasant and sweet; what think you of it?' Quoth Tibert, 'It is meat I little respect, and seldom eat; I had rather have one mouse than all the honey in Europe.' 'A mouse!' said Reynard, 'why, my dear cousin, here dwelleth a man hard by, who hath a barn by his house so full of mice, that I think half the wains in the parish would not carry them.' 'Oh, dear Reynard,' quoth the Cat, 'do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever.' 'Why,' said the Fox, 'but do you love mice so exceedingly?' 'Beyond expression,' quoth the Cat; 'a mouse is beyond venison, or the most delicate cates on princes' tables; therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter. Had you slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly forgive you.'

Then said Reynard, 'Sure you do but jest.' 'No, by my life,' said the Cat. 'Well, then,' quoth the Fox, 'if you be in earnest, I will so work, that this night I will give you as much as you can eat.' 'It is not possible,' said the Cat. 'Follow me,' said the Fox, 'and I will bring you to the place presently.' Thus away they went with all speed to the barn, which was walled about with a mud wall, where only the night before the Fox had broken in and stolen an exceeding fat hen, at which the farmer was so angry, that he had set a snare before the hole to catch him at his next coming. This the Fox knew perfectly, and therefore he said to the Cat, 'Sir Tibert, creep in at this hole, and you shall not tarry a minute's space, but you shall have more mice than you are able to devour. Hark, you may hear how they squeak; when you can eat no more, come again; I will wait for you at this hole, and to-morrow we will go together to the court. But, good cousin, stay not too long, for I know my wife will hourly expect us.' Then said the Cat, 'Think you I may safely enter at this hole?' 'Why, cousin Tibert,' said the Fox, 'I never saw you turn coward before! what, fear you a shadow?'

The Cat, ashamed at his fear, sprang in at the hole, but was instantly caught by the neck; he quickly leaped back again, and the noose running close, he was half strangled. He then began to struggle and cry out most piteously. Reynard stood before the hole and heard all; he was very glad and joyful, and cried out in mockery, 'Cousin Tibert, do you love mice? I hope they be well fed, for your sake. If the landlord knew of your feasting, he would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat; is that the court fashion? If it be, I would Isgrim the Wolf were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together.'

All this while the poor Cat was fast, and mewed so piteously, that the master of the house awoke, and awaked all his house, crying, 'The fox is taken, the fox is taken.' Then getting up, he gave his wife a candle to light, and coming first to Tibert he smote him with a large stick: the others followed him, so that the Cat received many heavy blows. Sir Tibert, thinking his death to be nigh, grew desperate, and with a spring fastened on the farmer with teeth and claws, so that he cried out lustily: which when his wife heard, she screamed aloud to her son Martinet to come and help.

All this while Reynard stood before the hole and saw what passed, and laughed until he was ready to burst; but the poor man fell down in a swoon, so that every one left the Cat to revive him. While they were doing this, the Fox returned home to Malepardus, supposing the Cat to be past all hope of escape: but Tibert seeing his foes busy all about the man, leaped out of the hole, and went on screaming and tumbling like the Bear, to the royal court.

Before he reached the court, the sun was up, and the day was advanced, and he entered in a pitiful plight; for his body was bruised, his bones broken, one of his eyes was out, and his skin was torn. When the king saw Tibert so pitifully mangled, he fell into a furious rage, and once more took counsel, how he should avenge these injuries upon the Fox.

After some consultation, Grimbard the Brock, Reynard's sister's son, said, 'My good lords, though my uncle were twice as evil as these complaints make him, there is a remedy against these ills: it is fit you do justice as to a beast of rank; he must be three times summoned, and then if he appear not, find him guilty of all that is laid to his charge.' Then the king demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who would be so desperate as to hazard his life with one so wicked. 'Truly,' answered the Brock, 'if it please your majesty, I am that desperate person, who dare venture to carry the message to my cunning kinsman, if your highness but command me.'

Chapter IV.—How Grimbard the Brock was sent to summon the Fox to Court. How the Fox came into the Court, and how he was condemned to death.

THEN said the king, 'Go, Grimbard, for I command you: yet take heed of Reynard, for he is sly and subtle.'

The Brock thanked his majesty, and taking leave, went to Malepardus, where he found Reynard and Ermeline his wife, sporting with their young whelps. Having saluted his uncle and aunt, he said, 'Take heed, fair uncle, that your absence from the court do you not still more wrong than the crime you are accused of: it is high time that you appear, for your delay will but bring on you the greater punishment; the complaints against you are many, and this is the third time of summons. Your own good sense must tell you, that if you delay, there is left to you and yours no hope of mercy: for within three days your castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaves, and yourself selected for a public warning. Therefore, my very good uncle, I pray you act with your usual wisdom, and go at once with me to the court.'

Reynard replied, 'Nephew you say true; I will go with you; not to answer accusations, but because I know the court stands in need of my advice. If I but speak with his majesty, I doubt not his mercy, though my offences were ten-fold; for I know that the court cannot stand without me, and *that* his majesty shall understand truly. I know I have many enemies, yet it troubles me not, for my innocence shall overcome their malice, and they shall know that in high matters of state policy Reynard must not be wanting. It is the envy of others that hath made me leave the court; for though I know their shallowness cannot dishonour me, yet their multitudes might overwhelm me. Nevertheless, nephew, I will go with you to the court, and not risk the welfare of my wife and children. The king is mighty, and though he do me wrong, yet will I bear it with patience.'

Then turning to his wife, 'Take care,' said he, 'of our children, especially my youngest son Reynikin, for he hath much of my love, and will, I hope, follow in my steps: Rossel too is passing hopeful, and I love him well; therefore be careful of them, and if I escape, doubt not my love shall requite you.' At this leave-taking, Ermeline wept, and her children howled; for their lord and provider was gone, and Malepardus left without a defender.

When Reynard and Grimbard had gone a good way on their journey, Reynard stopped and said, 'Dear nephew, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in great danger. 'I have grievously offended against all beasts, and especially my uncle Bruin, who was sorely beaten and bruised on my account; and Tibert the Cat, whom I ensnared. I have injured Chanticleer and his children, and devoured many of them; nay, the king himself hath suf-

fered from my malice, for I have slandered him and his queen. I have betrayed Isgrim the Wolf, and called him uncle, though none of his blood runs in my veins. I made him tie his foot in the bell-rope, to teach him to ring; but the peal had like to cost him his life, so sorely did the men of the parish beat and bruise him. After this I taught him to catch fish; but for this he was soundly beaten, and he feeleth the stripes to this day. I led him to steal bacon at a rich man's house, where he fed so ravenously, that not being able to get out where he got in, I raised all the people, and then ran to where the farmer was at dinner with a fat fowl before him; the fowl I snatched up, and ran away, and the farmer after me, crying, "Kill the fox, kill the fox," and the people after him, whom I led to the place where Isgrim was; there, much against my will, I let the fowl fall, and leaping through a hole, got to a place of safety. When the farmer spied Isgrim, he cried out, "Strike, friends, strike! here is the wolf; by no means let him escape." Then the people came with clubs and staves, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and he fell down as if he had been dead; they took him by the heels, and threw him into a ditch, where he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not.

'Another time I led him to a place where I told him were seven cocks and hens set on a perch, all lusty and fat; and hard by the place stood a trap-door, to which we climbed. I told him if he could creep in at that door he would find the fowls; then Isgrim went laughing to the door, and entered in a little way, groping about; "Reynard," quoth he, "you mock me; for I find nothing." "Then," replied I, "uncle, they are further in; those which used to perch just there, I myself devoured some time ago." At this, the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, and he fell down; his fall made such a noise, that those who were asleep in the house awoke, and finding him there beat and bruised him mortally. Thus have I brought the Wolf to many hazards of his life, more than I can now remember; but which, as they come to my mind, I will reveal to you hereafter. And thus having told you my wickedness, now order such penance as shall seem fit to your discretion.'

Now Grimbard was both learned and wise. He tore a branch from a tree, and said, 'Uncle, you shall three times strike your body with this rod, then lay it on the ground and jump three times over it without bending your legs or stumbling; then shall you take it up, and kiss it gently, in sign of your meekness; which done, all your faults shall

be forgiven.' At this the Fox was exceeding glad; and then Grimbard said to him, 'See that henceforth, uncle, you leave your evil life, your theft and your treason.' The Fox promised to do this: and they went together towards the court.

But as they went along, there was a nunnery a little way from the road, where many geese, fowls, and capons were feeding outside the wall; and as they went talking, the Fox led Grimbard out of his right way to that place, and finding amongst the poultry a fat young capon which strayed a little from his fellows, he suddenly sprang and caught him by the feathers; but the capon escaped, which Grimbard seeing, said, 'Wretched creature, what are you doing? will you for a silly pullet undo all you have done?' To which Reynard answered, 'Pardon me, dear nephew, I had forgotten myself; but I will be careful, and mine eye shall no more wander.' Then they turned over a little bridge, but the Fox still turned his eyes towards the poultry, and could not refrain it; for the ill that was bred in his bones still stuck to his flesh. The Brock said, 'Fie, dissembling cousin, why do your eyes wander after the poultry?' The Fox replied, 'Nephew, you wrong me, so to mistake me; I was only thinking with grief on all the unhappy poultry I have eaten.' 'Well,' said Grimbard, 'it may be so, but your glances are suspicious.' Now by this time they were come into the road again, and made haste towards the court, which, as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear; for he knew well how many and heinous were the crimes he had to answer for.

As soon as it was bruited in the court that Reynard the Fox and Grimbard his kinsman were arrived, every one prepared to complain of the Fox; at which Reynard's heart quaked, though his countenance changed not. He walked as proudly as he was wont, and came as gallantly into the court as if he had been the king's son, and as clear from trespass as the most innocent of them all. When he came before the chair of state, in which the king sat, he said, 'May your majesty enjoy glory and renown above all the princes of the earth: never king had a truer subject than I have been to you, and still am, and so will die; nevertheless, my lord, I know there are many in this court that seek my destruction. They endeavour to gain your majesty's ear, but you scorn the slanders of malice; and although in these days flatterers have place in princes' courts, yet with you it is not so, nor shall they reap anything but shame for their pains.'

But the king cut him short, and said, 'Peace, traitorous

Reynard, I know your dissimulation and your flattery, but both shall now fail you; think you I can be trapped with the music of your words? no, it hath deceived me too often. Thou evil one among the good, with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, seeing proofs of thy falsehood in all those wretched creatures whose wounds yet spit defiance upon thee?'

'My dread lord,' said the Fox, 'if Bruin's crown be bloody, am I the cause? If he would neglect the message in which your majesty employed him, to steal honey at the carpenter's house, where he received his wounds, how am I to blame? If he seek vengeance, why did he not take it himself? He is strong and powerful, while I am weak and puny. As for Tibert the Cat, whom I received with all friendship, if he against my will or advice will steal into the barns to catch mice, and there lose his eyes, wherein is my offence? O, my dread lord, you will do your royal pleasure, and however my innocence may plead, yet am I ready to suffer any death your will may doom me to.'

As he thus spoke, Bellin the Ram stepped forth, and his Ewe, dame Oseway, and besought the king to hear their complaint: with them Bruin the Bear, and all his mighty lineage, and Tibert the Cat, Isgrim the Wolf, Kayward the Hare, and Bruel the Goose, and Baldwin the Ass, and Bortel the Bull, and Hammel the Ox, and the Panther, the Boar, and the Camel, the Colt, the Kid, and the Weasel, and Chanticleer the Cock, and Partlet his Hen, with all her children. All these with one voice cried out against the Fox, and so moved the king with their complaint, that the Fox was seized and put under arrest.

Upon this a council was called: all voices were against Reynard, and notwithstanding his replies to every accusation, and that with such art as to raise the admiration and wonder of all that heard him, the proofs were so strong, and the witnesses so many, that he was found guilty, and adjudged to be hanged by the neck until he was dead.

At this sentence the Fox hung down his head; and Grimbard the Brock, and others of his kin, who could not endure to see him die, took leave of the king, and departed sorrowfully.

When the king saw how many gallant beasts had departed sad and weeping from the court, he said to himself, 'It behoveth us to take mature counsel; though Reynard hath faults, yet hath he some virtues, and many friends.' As the king thus mused, the Cat said to the Bear, 'Sir Bruin, and you, Sir Isgrim, why are you so slow in this execution? It is now almost night; there are many bushes

and hedges about, and if he once escape us, so great is his cunning, that with all our art we shall not catch him again. If you mean to hang him, proceed; for it will be dark night before the gallows can be made.' Isgrim recollecting himself said, 'There is a gibbet near at hand;' and with that he fetched a deep sigh; which the Cat noting, said, 'Are you afraid, Sir Isgrim, or is the execution against your mind? You may remember it was through him that your brothers were hanged: surely if you have any sense, you would hang him for that only, and not stand thus wasting time.' Isgrim replied, half angry, 'Your ill-will makes you unreasonable: if we had but a halter that would fit his neck, we would soon dispatch him.' Reynard, who had been silent a good while, now said, 'I pray you shorten my pain: Sir Tibert hath a strong cord in which he was hanged himself at the friar's house. Moreover, he can climb well; let him be the hangman, for it becometh not Isgrim nor Bruin to do thus with their nephew. Bruin, go before, and lead the way; you, Isgrim, follow.' 'You say well,' quoth Bruin.

So they went forth, and Isgrim and his friends guarded the Fox, holding him by the neck. When Reynard felt this, he was frightened; yet he said, 'Why, my kinsmen, do you thus trouble yourselves to do me harm? well I know, that if Isgrim's wife, my aunt, knew of my trouble, she would not, for old affection's sake, see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice. As for Bruin and Tibert, I leave my revenge to justice; I know the worst, death can come but once. I saw my father die, and how quickly he vanished; therefore the worst is familiar to me.'

So Isgrim on the one side, and Bruin on the other, led the Fox to the gallows; and Tibert running before with the halter, hoped to be revenged for all his wrongs. When they were come to the place of execution, the king and queen, and all the nobility, took their places to see the Fox die. Then Reynard, full of sorrow, busily bethought himself how he might escape; he considered also how to bring the king to his side, saying to himself, 'Though the king and many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it; nevertheless, I hope to live to be their best friend.' During this meditation, the Wolf said, 'Sir Bruin, now remember your wrongs; take a full measure of revenge, for the day we wished for is come; Tibert, mount quickly, and bring the rope to the gallows with a running noose, for this day you shall have your will of your enemy: and now, good Sir Bruin, take heed he escape not, whilst I raise the ladder.'

When all things were prepared, the Fox said, 'My dread lord the king, and you my sovereign lady the queen, and you my lords that stand to see me die, I beseech you grant me this boon, that I may open my heart to you, and clear my breast, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for my faults; which done, my death will be easy and peaceful.'

Chapter V.—How Reynard spoke to the King of his great Treasure.

EVERY creature now took compassion on the Fox, and besought the king to grant his request: this was done; and then the Fox spoke.

'I see no one here whom I have not offended; yet was not this natural inclination in me, for in my youth I was accounted good-natured: I played with the lambs all the day long, and took delight in their pretty bleating; but once in my play I bit one, and the taste of the blood was so sweet that I could not afterwards forbear it. This humour drew me into the woods among the goats, where I slew one of the kids, which made me so bold that I fell to killing hens, geese, and other poultry. Thus my crimes increased by habit, and I grew worse, until all was fish that came to my net. Once in the winter season I met with Isgrim, when he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded to me how he was my uncle, and laid the pedigree down so plain, that from that day forth we became companions; which friendship I may ever rue; for then began our thefts and slaughters. He stole the great things, I the small; he murdered nobles, I meaner subjects; and in all our actions, his share was ever the greatest. When he got a sheep or a calf, his gluttony would hardly afford me the bones to pick: nay, when he had an ox or a cow, after himself, his wife, and his seven children were served, nothing remained for me but the bare bones. This I speak not because I wanted, for it is well known I have more plate, jewels, and coin, than twenty carts would carry, but only to shew his ingratitude.'

When the king heard him speak of this great treasure, his heart was inflamed; and he said, 'Reynard, where is that treasure you speak of?' The Fox answered, 'My lord, I will willingly tell you. True it is the wealth was stolen, but had it not been stolen it had cost your highness' life, which, I pray, may it be long preserved to your kingdom.' When the queen heard that, she started, and said, 'What

dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I do command you to unfold these doubtful speeches, and to keep nothing concealed which concerns my dread lord.'

The Fox, with a sorrowful countenance, replied, 'O sovereign lady, how happy would my death now be, could I be spared this; but, gracious madam, I will discharge my conscience, and speak nothing but what I will make good. 'Tis true the king would have been murdered by his own people, and my nearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not my fealty to the king command it.'

The king, much perplexed at this discovery, said, 'Is this true, Reynard, which you say?' The Fox answered, 'Alas! my dread lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how little sand is left to run in my poor glass: can your majesty imagine I will now dissemble?' And at that he looked so pitifully, that the queen had compassion on him, and humbly besought the king to take some pity on the Fox, and command all his subjects to hold their peace, till he had spoken the uttermost of his knowledge. All this was granted, and the Fox proceeded in this manner:

'Since it is the pleasure of my sovereign, I will freely and boldly unfold this foul treason, and in the relation spare not any guilty person. Know then, my lord, that my father, by a strange accident, digging in the ground discovered king Ermenrich's treasure, a mass of riches infinite and innumerable. Being possessed of this, he grew so proud and haughty that he held in scorn all the beasts of the wilderness which before had been his companions. At last he sent Tibert the Cat into the forest of Ardenne, to Bruin the Bear, with orders to tender him his homage and fealty, and to offer to make him king. This was done; Bruin agreed, and came into Flanders, where my father received him nobly: then he sent Grimbard my nephew, for Isgrim the Wolf, and for Tibert the Cat: and these five going to a place near Ghent, held council for the space of a whole night. In that night, from the great confidence they had in my father's riches, they resolved that your majesty should be murdered; and vowed to make Bruin their king, to place him in the chair of state at Aix-la-Chapelle, and to set the imperial diadem on his head; and if any of your majesty's blood and lineage should resist, that then my father with his treasure would hire those that should utterly drive them out of the forest.

'After this resolution was passed, it happened that my nephew Grimbard being on a time heated with wine, discovered this wicked plot to dame Slopard his wife, command-

ing her upon her life to keep it secret; but she disclosed it in confidence to my wife; and she, woman-like, so soon as she met with me gave me full knowledge of all that passed, under a promise that I should keep it secret too; for she had vowed by the three kings of Cologne never to disclose it. My heart now was like lead, cold and heavy in my bosom, and I called to mind the story of the Frogs, who being free and without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a king to rule and govern over them, and he sent them a Stork which ate and devoured them: so that by his tyranny they became the most miserable of all creatures: then they complained again to Jupiter for redress; but it was too late, for they that could not be content with their freedom must of necessity suffer in thraldom.

'Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your majesty, although my sorrow was of little use. I knew the ambition of the Bear and his tyranny to be so great, that should the government come into his hands, the whole commonwealth would be destroyed. Besides, I knew your majesty to be so mighty, so gracious, and so merciful, that it would have been a miserable exchange to have seen a ravenous Bear upon the throne of a royal Lion; for there is in the Bear more villany and meanness than in any other beast of the forest.

'But to proceed; I began to meditate how I might undo the wicked conspiracies of my father, who sought to bring a traitor to the imperial throne: for I well perceived, that so long as he held the treasure, there was a possibility of your majesty being deposed. So I laboured how I might find out where my father's treasure was hid; and watched night and day in the woods, in the bushes, and in the fields; nay, in all places wheresoever my father turned his eyes, there was I ever watching. Now it happened on a time as I was laid flat down on the ground, I saw my father come out of a hole; and as soon as he was come out, he gazed about him to see if any one watched him; then seeing the coast clear he stopped the hole with sand, so that no eye could discern it; and where the print of his foot remained, he stroked it over with his tail, and so smoothed it, that none could perceive it; and indeed that and many other subtleties I learned of him there at that instant. When he had finished, away he went. Then went I towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtlety, I quickly found it out; and entered the cave, where I found an immense quantity of treasure: I then took Ermeline my wife to help me, and we ceased not day or night, to carry

away this treasure to another place, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. During the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors about the death of the king: in which it was concluded that Isgrim the Wolf should travel all over the kingdom, and promise to all the beasts that would acknowledge Bruin for their sovereign, a full year's pay beforehand; and in this journey my father accompanied him. When this negotiation was finished, and many valiant soldiers were raised, they returned to Bruin and his friends, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped, and how they were pursued by huntsmen and hounds; so that they hardly escaped with life. After this relation they shewed Bruin the muster-roll, which pleased him exceeding much; for here was Isgrim's lineage, about twelve hundred, devoted to the cause, besides the Bear's own kindred, and the Fox's, the Cat's, and the Brock's, who would be in readiness at an hour's warning. Things being brought to this state, my father went to his cave; but when he found it open, and ransacked, it is not in me to express the agony and sorrow he fell into; his grief turned to madness, and his madness to despair, so that he went to the next tree and hanged himself.

'Thus, by my art only, was the treason of Bruin defeated, and for this I now suffer; for these foul traitors, Bruin and Isgrim, being of the king's private council, and sitting in high authority, tread upon me, and work my disgrace; notwithstanding that for your majesty's sake I have lost my own father. O my lord, what can any one do more for you, than lose his own blood for your safety?'

When the Fox had thus said, the king and queen having great hope to get this treasure, took him from the gibbet and entreated him to unfold where it was. But the Fox replied, 'O my lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs? Shall these traitors, who take my life and would destroy yours, possess the wealth? That would be a folly which would make my death bitter indeed.' Then said the queen, 'Fear not, Reynard, the king shall save your life and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth bear true allegiance to his majesty.' The Fox answered, 'Dearest madam, if the king of his royal nature will believe my words and forgive my former offences, there was never king so rich as I will make him.' Then the king checked the queen and said, 'Madam, will you believe the Fox? know you not that it is his nature to lie, and cheat, and steal?' The queen answered, 'My dear lord, now you may freely believe him; for

though in his prosperity he was full of error, now you may see he is changed. Why, he spareth not to accuse his own father; nay, Grimbard, his dearest nephew and kinsman. Had he dissembled, he might have laid this crime on other beasts, and not on those he most loveth.' 'Well, madam,' said the king, 'you shall at this time rule me, and all the offences of the Fox I will freely pardon; yet with this protest, that if ever again he offend in the smallest degree, not only himself, but his whole generation I will utterly root out of my dominions.' The Fox looked sadly when the king spoke thus, but was inwardly most glad at heart; and he said, 'My dread lord, it were a shame in me should I speak any untruths in this great presence.'

Then the king pardoned the Fox of all he had ever committed; and the Fox fell down before the king and queen, and humbly thanked them for their mercy, protesting that he would make them the richest princes in the world. From that day forward no man's counsel prevailed with the king so much as that of the Fox.

The Fox now said to the king, 'My gracious lord, you shall understand that at the west side of Flanders there is a wood called Husterloe, near which runneth a river named Crekenpit; it is a wilderness so vast and impassable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either man or woman into the same. In it have I hid this treasure, whither I would have your majesty and the queen to go; for I know none but yourselves whom I dare trust in a business of such importance. When your highness comes thither, you shall find two birch trees growing by a pit; into this you shall enter, and there you shall find the treasure, which consisteth of the coin, rich jewels, and the costly crown which king Ermenrich wore; with which crown Bruin the Bear would have been crowned, if his treason had succeeded. There shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possessed, then remember the love of your servant Reynard.'

The king answered, 'Sir Reynard, you must yourself dig this treasure; for I shall never find it. I have heard of Paris, London, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Cologne, but Crekenpit I never heard of; therefore I fear you dissemble.' The Fox blushed at these words, and said, 'Is your majesty so doubtful of my faith? Nay, then I will prove my words by public testimony;' and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare, and commanded him to come before the king, charging him upon the allegiance which he bore to the king and queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, 'I will speak truth

in all things, though I were sure to die for the same.' Then the Fox said, 'Know you not where is Crekenpit?' 'Yes,' said the Hare, 'I have known it these dozen years; it is in a wood called Husterloe, a vast and wild wilderness, where father Simony the Friar made false coin, with which he supported himself and his fellows.' 'Well,' said the Fox, 'you have spoken sufficiently; go to your place again.' So away went the Hare.

Then said the Fox, 'My sovereign lord, what say you now to my relation, am I worthy of your belief or not?' The king said, 'Yes, Reynard; and I beseech thee excuse my jealousies. Therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the pit where this treasure lieth.' The Fox answered, 'Alas, my lord, do you imagine that I would not gladly go if I might do so without dishonouring you? Surely I would. But you shall understand, though it be to my disgrace, that when Isgrim the Wolf would needs turn monk, the portion of meat which served for six monks was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pitifully unto me, that I, commiserating his case, he being my kinsman, gave him counsel to run away, which he did. Whereupon I stand under the pope's anger, and to-morrow, as soon as the sun riseth, must take my way towards Rome, and from Rome I intend to cross the seas into Palestine, and will never return again into my native country till I have done so much good, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your majesty's person.' The king hearing this, said, 'In this case I must not have you about me; and therefore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some other with me to Crekenpit, and only command you, Reynard, to return soon.' 'My lord,' said the Fox, 'I will not rest night or day till I return.' 'The course you take is good,' said the king, 'go on and prosper in your intent and purpose.'

CHAPTER VI.—How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all beasts by the King's command, and how he pulled off the Wolf's shoes.

AS soon as the conference was ended, the king, mounted upon his high throne made of fair square stone, commanded a general silence amongst all his subjects; and then every one took his place according to his birth or dignity, only the Fox was placed between the king and queen. Then said the king, 'Hear, all you noblemen, knights, gen-

tlemen, and others of inferior quality; this Reynard, one of the chief and supreme officers of my household, whose offences had brought him into the hands of the law, hath this day in requital of those injuries, done such noble and worthy service to the state, that both myself and my queen stand bound to render him our best favour. Therefore know that for divers things, best known unto ourselves, we have freely given pardon to all his offences, and restored to him whatsoever was confiscated: and now I command all of you, upon the hazard of your lives, that you fail not, from this day forward, to do all honour, not only to Reynard himself, but also to his wife and children, whensoever or wheresoever you shall meet them, whether by night or by day; and that none of you hereafter be so audacious as to trouble mine ears with any more complaints of him. In aid of his good intentions, to-morrow he taketh his journey towards Rome, where he will purchase a pardon for all his offences, and will then go on a pilgrimage.'

When Tisellin the Raven heard this, he flew to Bruin, Isgrim, and Tibert, and said, 'Wretched creatures, how are your fortunes changed! Reynard is now a courtier, a chancellor, nay, the prime favourite: his offences are forgiven, and you are all betrayed.' Isgrim replied, 'It is impossible, Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered.' 'Do not deceive yourselves,' said the Raven, 'for it is as true as that now I speak it.' Then went the Wolf and the Bear to the king; the Cat stayed, being so frightened at the news, that, to purchase the Fox's friendship again, he would not only have forgiven the evils received, but willingly have run into a second hazard. But Isgrim, with great majesty and pride came before the king and queen, and with bitter words inveighed against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the king being moved with great displeasure, caused him and the Bear to be arrested for high-treason; this was done with violence, and they were bound so fast, that they could not stir from the place where they were.

When the Fox had thus entangled his enemies, he so laboured with the queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Bear's skin as would make him a large scrip for his journey; which being granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of shoes to defend his feet from the stones in his travel. Whereupon he said to the queen, 'Madam, I am your pilgrim, and if it would please your majesty to take into your consideration, you shall find that Sir Isgrim hath a pair of excellent long lasting shoes, which would you vouchsafe to bestow upon me, I would pray for

your majesty in all my travels. Mine aunt Herswin, too, hath other two shoes, which would your majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor would it be to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad.' The queen replied, 'Reynard, I perceive that you will want such shoes; for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both of stony mountains and gravelly ways, and therefore you shall have from each of them a pair to accomplish your journey.'

After the Fox had made his humble petition, they seized upon Isgrim, and pulled off the skin of his forefeet in a very cruel manner, so that the sinews lay bare. And then they treated dame Herswin in the same way on her hinder feet; which the Fox seeing, he said to her in mockery, 'Dear aunt, how much I thank you for taking all this trouble for my sake. I protest you shall share in the gains of my pilgrimage, and in the indulgence which I shall bring from Rome by the help of your shoes.' Then Herswin with difficulty replied, 'Sir Reynard, you have gained your ends; but, I hope, you will suffer for your wickedness.' But Isgrim and Bruin lay mute; for their wounds were grievous.

Early next morning Reynard oiled his shoes, and made them as fit to his feet as they had been to those of Isgrim and Herswin. He then went to the king and queen, and said, 'My lord and lady, your poor subject bows to your majesties, humbly beseeching you to deliver me my mail and staff, with the proper ceremonies due to pilgrims.'

Then the king sent for Bellin the Ram, and commanded him to hang about Reynard's neck the mail made of the Bear's skin, and put the palmer's staff into his right paw. Being thus provided, the Fox looked sadly on the king, as if he had been unwilling to depart, though sorrow and he were never further asunder. Then he took leave of all the others, and prepared to depart; for, knowing his own knavery, he was anxious to be gone: and the king said to him, 'I am sorry we must part so soon.' The Fox said, 'There is no remedy, my liege, nor ought I to be slow in an act so praiseworthy.'

Then the king gave strict command to all his court, except the Bear and Wolf, to attend Reynard on a part of his journey. Any that had seen how gallant and brave Reynard looked, and how well his staff and mail became him, and how his shoes fitted, would have been stirred to much laughter: but the Fox behaved very demurely, though inwardly he smiled at his own knavery, and was amused to see his enemies become his waiting-men,

and even the king, whom he had so gulled with his tricks, accompanying him, as if he had been his companion.

When he had got some distance, the Fox said, 'I beseech your majesty, trouble yourself no further, but think of the danger which might happen to your royal person; for you have arrested two capital traitors, and if they should get at liberty in your absence, great peril might ensue.' Having said thus, he stood up on his hind legs, and took leave of the king with a sad countenance; then turning to Kayward the Hare and Bellin the Ram, he said to them smiling, 'My best friends, shall we part so soon? Do not leave me yet: with you I have never been offended, your conversation is suited to my disposition; for you are mild, kind, and courteous, and full of wisdom, even as I was myself when I first became a recluse. You are temperate and modest, and if you have a few green leaves, or a little grass, you are as well content as if you had all the fish and bread in the world.' And thus with flattering words he induced these two unsuspecting beasts to go along with him.

Chapter VII.—How Kayward the Hare was killed by Reynard the Fox, and how the Ram carried the head to the King.

THUS these three walked on together; and when Reynard had reached the gates of his own house, he said to Bellin the Ram, 'Cousin, I entreat you to stay without a little while, for I have some domestic business to transact within, which I should wish Kayward to be a witness to.' Bellin consented; and the Fox and the Hare went into Malepardus, where they found Ermeline lying on the ground with her young ones about her, sorrowing exceedingly for the loss and danger of her husband; but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled. Then beholding his staff, his mail, and his shoes, she wondered exceedingly, and said, 'Dear husband, how have you fared?' Upon this he told her every thing that had happened at court, both his danger and his release, and that he was now on a pilgrimage; that the king had bestowed Kayward upon him to treat as he pleased, affirming that Kayward was the first who accused him.

When Kayward heard these words, he was alarmed, and would have fled, but the Fox got between him and the gate, and seized him by the neck. Then the Hare would have cried to Bellin for help, but the Fox strangled him in

a trice; which done, he and his wife and little ones feasted merrily.

But Ermeline said, 'I fear, Reynard, you mock me; tell me, as you love me, how you really sped at the court.' Then he told her how he had flattered the king and queen, and tricked them with a promise of treasure which did not exist, so that when all should be found out, the king would seek every means to destroy him. 'And therefore, wife,' said he, 'there is no other remedy but that we should steal from hence into some other forest, where we may be more safe, and where we may live on the daintiest food that can be wished for, and enjoy clear springs, fresh rivers, cool shades, and wholesome air. And now I have got my thumb out of the king's mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his claws.' 'Yet,' said Ermeline, 'I have no fancy to go from hence to a place with which I am utterly unacquainted: here we possess all that we desire, and it is unwise to change a certainty for an uncertainty: besides, we are here safe enough, and should the king besiege us never so closely, we have so many passages that he cannot cut us off from relief. Oh, what reason have we then to flee beyond seas?' 'Well, dame,' said the Fox, 'grieve not; second thoughts are best: I do not think that this journey will avail me much, and therefore I am resolved not to start from hence, but follow thy counsel. If the king hunt after me, I will use my cunning against his power.'

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the gate: he grew angry both with the Fox and the Hare, that they made him wait so long, and called out aloud upon them. When Reynard heard him, he went forth, and said, 'Good Bellin, be not offended; Kayward is in earnest conference with his dearest aunt, and he entreated me to tell you, that if you would walk before, he would speedily overtake you, for he is lighter of foot than you, nor will his aunt part with him so suddenly, for she and her children are much perplexed at my departure.' 'Ay,' quoth Bellin, 'but methought I heard Kayward cry for help.' 'How! can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my house? I will tell you the reason of his calling out: as soon as we were come into my house, and Ermeline heard of my journey, she fell down in a swoon, which when Kayward saw, he cried aloud, "O Bellin, come and help my aunt, she is dying, she is dying."' Then said the Ram seriously, 'I mistook the cry, and thought Kayward was in danger.' 'It was your too much care of him,' said the Fox; 'but you remember, Bellin, that yesterday the king commanded me, that before I departed from the country, I should send him two letters; these

I have made ready, and will entreat you to bear them to his majesty.' The Ram answered, 'I will willingly do you service, but I am unprovided with any thing to carry them in.' The Fox said, 'You shall have my mail, which you may conveniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully received by his majesty, for they contain matter of great importance.'

So the Fox took the mail, and put therein the head of Kayward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him charge, as he valued the king's favour, not to look therein, till it was presented to the king: and, that he might farther endear himself with his majesty, he recommended him to say that he had himself indited the letters, 'which,' quoth he, 'will be so pleasing to the king, that he will pour his favours upon you.'

The Ram was very glad of Reynard's advice, and thanked him, saying, 'The favours you have done me shall not go unrequited; I know it will be much to my honour, if the king shall think I am able to indite with such perfection; for I know there be many in these days as ignorant as myself, who have risen to high promotion, only by taking upon them the worth of other men's labours. Yet, ought I not to take Kayward the Hare along with me?' 'By no means,' said the Fox; 'let him come after you, for I know his aunt will not yet part with him: besides, I have secret things to impart to him.' This said, Bellin took leave of the Fox, and went towards the court, where he arrived before noon, and found the king in his palace, sitting amongst the nobility.

The king wondered when he saw the Ram come in with the mail made of the Bear's skin, and he said, 'Whence comest thou, Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have his mail with you?' Bellin answered, 'My lord, I attended the Fox to his house, where, after some repose, he desired me to bear certain letters to your majesty of great importance. He delivered them to me inclosed in this mail, which letters myself have indited, and I doubt not but they are such as will give your highness satisfaction.' The king commanded the letters to be delivered to Bocart, his secretary, who was an excellent linguist, and understood all languages; so he and Tibert the Cat took the mail from Bellin's neck, and, opening the same, instead of the letters, drew out the head of Kayward the Hare.

Amazed at this, they cried out, 'Woe and alas! what letters call you these? My dread lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murdered Kayward.' When the king saw the head, he cried out, 'Oh miserable me, that I have

believed this traitorous Fox!' And then oppressed with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for some time, as did the queen also. At last, shaking his curly mane, he groaned so fearfully, that all the beasts of the forest trembled.

Then spoke Sir Fyrapel the Leopard, the king's nearest kinsman: 'Why is your majesty thus grieved? I beseech you asswage your anguish. Are you not king and master of your people; and are not all things subject to your power?' The king replied, 'Cousin, I am betrayed by a traitor and a villain; I have been made to wrong my best friends and subjects, even those of my wisest council, the stout Bruin and valiant Isgrim, whose wrongs speak loudly to my dishonour; yet I was myself most unwilling; only that my queen's pitifulness working on my too easy belief, hath made me do that which I can never pardon myself for.' 'Nay,' said the Leopard, 'say not so; your majesty can do no wrong; a smile from you can heal the deadliest wound. You have the power to reward, and what reputation cannot be soldered by reward? The Bear hath lost his skin, and the Wolf and dame Herswin have lost their shoes; but your majesty may bestow upon them, in compensation, the body and substance of Bellin the Ram, who hath confessed himself a party in this foul murder. As for Reynard, we will besiege his castle, arrest his person, and hang him by the law of arms, without further trial.'

CHAPTER VIII.—How Bellin the Ram and his lineage were given to the Bear and the Wolf, and how new complaints were made against the Fox.

THE king consented to the Leopard's proposal, and Fyrapel went forthwith to the prison, where the Bear and the Wolf were shut up; and said to them, 'My lords, I bring you a free pardon from the king, with his love, and sorrow for your wrongs: in compensation for which he is pleased to grant unto you Bellin the Ram and his whole generation, with whatsoever they may possess, which is confiscated to his majesty, to have and to hold from henceforth by you and your heirs for ever, with full powers to kill, slay, and devour them, wheresoever you may find them, in woods or forests, fields or mountains. The king also granteth to you full power to hunt, kill, or wound Reynard the Fox, or any of his lineage or generation, in any place whatever.'

Thus did the Leopard make peace between the king and these nobles; and the privileges then granted are held by the Wolf unto this day, nor has any reconciliation ever taken place between him and the kindred of the Ram. Then Bellin the Ram was slain by the Bear and the Wolf; and the king proclaimed a feast to be held for twelve days, to testify his joy at the conclusion of the peace.

This feast being made known throughout the kingdom, all manner of wild beasts resorted to it: no delight or pleasure that could be devised was wanting; such as music, dancing, masking, and other royal recreations. Such was the plenty of meats of all kinds, that the court was like an inexhaustible store-house. There also came all kinds of birds, and every creature that was at peace with the king, saving only the Fox.

When the feast had lasted for the space of eight days, Laprel the Rabbit came before the king and queen as they sat at dinner, and with a plaintive voice cried out, 'My gracious lord, hear my complaint, which is of violence and murder, attempted against me by Reynard the Fox. As I passed yesterday by his castle of Malepardus, there he stood without the gates, attired like a pilgrim, and counting his beads. I, supposing I might pass unmolested, saluted him: but without returning any reply, he lifted up his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, that I had just enough life left to leap from his claws, grievously maimed, and deprived of one of my ears. I humbly beseech your majesty to have pity on your poor subjects, and not to allow this murderer to live longer for their affliction.'

While the Rabbit was yet speaking, Corbant the Rook came flying into the court before the king, and he said, 'Great king, I beseech you to hear my complaint. This morning I went with my wife Sharpbeak, to the heath, where we found Reynard the Fox, lying on the ground, as though he were dead, with his eyes half out of his head, his mouth open, and his tongue hanging: we stood some time wondering, and then went and touched the body. Then my wife, poor dear creature, went and put her head near his mouth to try if he yet drew breath; but at the instant the foul murderer, who had been on the watch, biding his time, snatched at her, and bit her head off. At that I screamed, exclaiming, "Woe is me! what misery is mine!" and the murderer at once started up, and rushed upon me with such dire intent, that I was glad to fly to a tree, where I stayed in dread and anguish, and saw him devour my dear wife, whose dreadful death will never be absent from my memory. When the murderer departed, I went down and

gathered up my poor lost wife's feathers, which I lay before your majesty, beseeching you to do me justice.'

When the king heard these complaints of the Rabbit and the Rook, he was moved with anger, his eyes darted fire, his face became terrible to look upon, and the whole court trembled to behold him. At length he said, 'By my royal crown, I will have a dire revenge! His falsehood and flattery shall get no more belief from me. But it was not I, it was the queen's persuasion; nor am I the first that hath been misled by that weak sex. I here vow, that I will so fearfully avenge these outrages on my crown and dignity, that the good shall look on with approbation, while the wicked shall die with fear.' Then he commanded all the beasts about the court to assist him with their counsel, and so to complete his just revenge.

Now Isgrim the Wolf and Bruin the Bear were very glad, and doubted not they should have full revenge against Reynard; but they held their peace, and said not a word. But the queen, with a deep courtesy, began thus: 'Sire, a wise man will not believe any thing, nor make a vow to any course, until he be fully informed; nor should he lend both ears to any complaint, but keep one open for the defence. For my part, I may have been wrong, but I have strong ground for my belief. In all cases, whether Reynard be guilty or not guilty, it is your majesty's duty to proceed not against him without due form of law.'

When the queen had spoken, Sir Fyrapel the Leopard rose and said, 'My lord, the queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not that your majesty can act against her judgment. Let him be summoned, and if he appear not before the close of this festival, either to defend himself, or to submit to your mercy, then shall your highness do to him according to your good pleasure.'

Then spoke Isgrim the Wolf: 'Sir Fyrapel, I think that none here present will dissent from your counsel, so that it meet the pleasure of my lord the king. As to the treasure which he hath informed his majesty lies hid at Crekenpit in Husterloe, there never came a falser word from the mouth of any creature. It was a lie invented to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself freed from his bonds, to begin anew his course of robbery and plunder.'

Then said the king, 'I will summon him no more; but I do command all who owe me allegiance, to appear before me at the end of six days, with bows, guns, pikes, and halberts, on horseback or on foot; for I will instantly besiege Malepardus, and destroy Reynard and his generation from the face of the earth.'

Chapter IX.—How Grimbard the Brock communed with Reynard the Fox.

WHEN Grimbard the Brock heard this, he grew exceeding sorry, and stealing from the rest of the company, he ran with all speed to Malepardus, over bush and briar, pale and rail. And as he went, he said within himself, 'Alas, my dear uncle Reynard, there is but one step betwixt thee and thy death. Well may I grieve for thee, since thou art wise and wary, and a friend to thy friends when they stand in need of thy counsel; for with thy smooth tongue thou canst enchant all creatures: but I fear all is bootless.'

With such lamentations as these came Grimbard to Malepardus: there he found his uncle Reynard standing at the castle gates; who beholding his nephew Grimbard, said, 'Welcome, my best beloved nephew, whom I esteem above all my kindred; how runs the news at court?' 'Oh,' said Grimbard, 'exceeding ill with you, for you have forfeited your life, honour, and estate; the king is up in arms against you, and Isgrim and Bruin are now in more favour with his majesty than ever; therefore it is high time you take care of yourself: they have informed against you, that you are a thief and a murderer, and to second their informations, Laprel the Rabbit, and Corbant the Rook have made dreadful complaints against you; so that I see no hope of your escape from a shameful death.' 'Tush,' said the Fox, 'let no care affright you, but let us be cheerful together; for though the king and all his court compass my death, and they all prate and jangle and tire themselves with their counsels, yet without the help of my wit and policy neither can the court or commonwealth have any long continuance. Come then, my good nephew, let us enter into my castle and feast; I have a pair of fat pigeons for you. Come, I say, my wife Ermeline will receive you kindly: but by all means report not to her of danger; for she is of a soft temper, and it might alarm her, and make her ill. When we have feasted, I will go with you to the court; and if I can but obtain speech with the king, I shall gall some of them deep enough.' 'This you may depend upon,' said the Brock, 'that you shall come and make your answer before the lords freely; for none shall dare to arrest you: that favour the queen and the Leopard have obtained from the king.' 'I am glad of that,' said the Fox, 'nor care I then a hair for their worst malice.'

This said, they went to Malepardus, and found Ermeline

sitting amongst her younglings, who arose and received the Brock with all kindness, he on his part saluted her and her children with all courtesy. Presently the two pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking his part. Then said the Fox, 'Nephew, how like you my children Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our family, they are getting on I assure you; for the one lately caught a chicken, and the other hath killed a pullet: they can all deceive both the lapwing and mallard. I tell you truly, that I dare already adventure them far; only I mean first to instruct them how to escape from traps, and to avoid the huntsman and his hounds. They are of the right sort, nephew, and like me both in countenance and temper; their sport is malice, their kindness is deceit, and they kill smiling. This is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect.'

'Uncle,' said the Brock, 'you may be proud that you have such forward children, and I rejoice because they are of my blood.' 'I thank you, nephew,' said the Fox, 'but I know your journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest.' The Brock consented, and they laid them down, and all slept soundly, except the Fox, who lay studying how he might best excuse himself before the king. As soon as the morning began to rise from the top of the mountains he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the court. Yet before he went, he took leave of his wife and children, and said, 'think not mine absence long, dear wife and children, for I must go to the court with my cousin Grimbard. Be careful of yourselves, and keep my castle close, and well guarded, and doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies.' 'Alas, Reynard,' said his wife, 'what moves you to take this sudden journey? The last time you were at the court, you know what dangers you escaped, and will you now run a second hazard?' 'Dame,' said the Fox, 'the events of the world are divers and uncertain, and we are subject to the strokes of fortune; but rest you content, there is a necessity for my going, and I hope my stay may not be above five days at the utmost.' And so embracing his wife and children, he departed.

As they journeyed over the heath, Reynard said to the Brock, 'Dear nephew, I will relate to you some of the faults which I have committed, that you may know of what I am likely to be accused.' Then he proceeded, 'You know, nephew, that I caused the Bear to be partly flayed to make a mail of his skin, and that I caused the Wolf and his wife to be stript of their shoes; I appeased the king with falsehood; I feigned a conspiracy against his

majesty's life by the Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such treason; and I falsely reported of great treasure in Husterloe; I slew Kayward, and betrayed Bellin; I wounded the Rabbit, and killed dame Sharpbeak, the Rook's wife. I once cheated the Wolf into a broken head, in this way: as I went talking with him over a plain, we beheld a bay mare grazing with a foal by her side, which was exceeding fat and frisky: the Wolf was almost dead with hunger, and he entreated me to go to the mare and ask if she would sell her foal. After speaking to the mare, I told the Wolf that if he wished to know the price of the foal, he must read what was written on the mare's hind foot; which he, being a scholar, said he could very well do. Now the mare had been newly shod with stout iron shoes, having in them plenty of sharp-headed nails, and when he went towards the mare, she lifted up her heels, and gave him such a kick upon the forehead, that he rolled over and over, and lay in a swoon. Then away trotted the mare and her colt, leaving the Wolf stunned and bleeding; and when he came to himself, he howled like any dog. Then went I up to him, and said, "Sir Isgrim, have you eaten too much of the colt? indeed, you are very unkind that you will not give me a share. Methinks you have outslept your dinner, good uncle; tell me what was written under the mare's foot? was it in prose or rhyme?" "Alas, Reynard," said the Wolf to me, "I pray you forbear your mockery; for mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me. The wicked mare on her long leg had an iron foot, and I took the nails to have been letters; while I looked at them she hit me so full on the head, that I think my skull is cloven." "Dear uncle," said I, "is this truth which you tell me? I took you for one of the greatest scholars in the kingdom. Well, I perceive the old proverb is now made good in you; the greatest clerks are not the wisest men; poor men sometimes may outstrip them in judgment; and the reason is, you great scholars study so much, that you grow dull because you overwork yourselves." With these mocks and taunts I brought the Wolf within a hair's breadth of his death. Now fair nephew I have unloaded my conscience, and come what may at the court, I am armed against all dangers.'

Then Grimbard said, 'You have been very wicked, but what is done cannot be undone. I can only hope you will repent; but the contempt you made in sending the king Kayward's head, and telling him so many falsehoods, will lie heavy upon you.'

With such discourse they held on their journey towards

the court. But the Fox's heart, for all his fair show, was sad and heavy; yet his countenance betrayed it not. He passed without hesitation through all the court, till he came to the presence of the king; and the Brock marched close by his side, saying, 'Uncle, be not afraid! be of good cheer! fortune favours the brave.' Then said the Fox, 'Nephew, you say true, and your counsel is good.' And so on he went, casting many disdainful glances on those he liked not, as who should say, 'Here I am; what is it that the proudest of you dare object against me?' He beheld there many of his kin, which he knew loved him not; and many he saw that loved him. So soon as he was come before the king, he fell down on his knee and spoke as followeth.

Chapter X.—How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King, and of the King's answer.

'HAIL to my lord the king, and my lady the queen; and may they discover who hath right and who hath wrong; for there are many false appearances in the world, and the countenance is not a true index of the heart. I would that you, my sovereign lord, knew how I employ my time early and late, labouring in your service; for which cause only malice makes complaint against me, striving to thrust me out of your favour; so that, in my anguish, I cannot but cry shame to them who have so belied me. Nevertheless, I know that you, my lord and sovereign lady, are excellent in your judgments; and therefore I humbly beseech your majesties to look into the matter, and to decide according to the right. Believe it, my lord, it shall be known before I depart from your court, that though I cannot flatter, I can shew myself with an unblemished front.'

All those who were in the presence stood amazed when the Fox spoke so stoutly. But the king with a stately countenance said, 'Reynard, I know you are expert in fallacies; but words alone cannot now relieve you. I fear this day will be the last of your pride, and that disgrace abides you. I will not chide you, because my resolve is that you shall live but a short time. It is an old saying, "that the pitcher goes often to the well, but at last it is broken;" in like manner your crimes have so long succeeded, that they will ruin you in the end.'

At these words Reynard was struck with fear, and wished himself away; yet he bethought himself that now he must bear up, whatever should happen.

'My lord,' said he, 'it is just that you hear my answer; for were my faults more heinous than envy can make them, yet equity gives the accused leave to reply. I have done you service in former time, and still may do so. I have never swerved from your majesty, but have stood by you when others have deserted you. I see here divers of my kindred and friends who now value me not, who now wish to deprive you of the best servant you possess. Can your majesty imagine that if I had been guilty, I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance in the throng of mine enemies? No, no; I could not have done so; but I know my innocence, and dare confront my worst enemy. When my kinsman, Grimbard, first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was half distracted, and had I not been on my journey, I had appeared ere they had left complaining; but that detained me, and as I journeyed I met my uncle Martin the Ape, who far exceedeth any other in learning; for he hath been a student these nine years. Seeing me in this trouble he said, "Dear cousin, why are you thus dejected? Grief is easy to carry when the burden is divided amongst friends." I answered him, "You say true, dear uncle; sorrow is indeed laid upon me. I am falsely accused by one I ranked with my best friends; namely, the Rabbit, who came yesterday to my house and told me he was both hungry and weary, and requested of me some meat. I willingly gave him a couple of manchets and some butter. Now when he had almost finished, my youngest son, Rossel, came in and offered to take away what he had left; but the Rabbit smote Rossel on the mouth, and he fell down in a swoon; which when Reynardine my eldest son beheld, he leaped upon the Rabbit and caught him by the head, and doubtless had slain him, had I not come to the rescue; which done, I went and gave my son correction for his fault. But Laprel the Rabbit posts to my lord the king, and informs him that I sought to murder him.

'Thus I am accused: I, that in truth have the best cause to accuse others. Not long after came Corbant the Rook, flying to my house with a sad noise. I demanding what he ailed, he answered, "My wife is dead." I asked the cause, and he said that she had eaten too greedily of the body of a hare which she found dead on the heath, and that she had died of the surfeit. And without speaking to me any more, away he flew, leaving me much amazed; and now reports that I slew his wife. How could I possibly do so; for she flyeth in the air, and I walk upon the ground? Thus, dear uncle, you may see how I am slandered; but perhaps it is for the best, and therefore I bear it with

patience. Then said the Ape to me, "Nephew, you shall go to the court and disprove their falsehoods." "Alas! uncle," quoth I, "it cannot be; for I am on my way to Rome to buy a pardon. Were I but free of this necessity, then would I go to the court and plead my cause, and turn their malice into their own bosoms." Then said the Ape, "Cousin, cast off your sorrow; for I know the way to Rome well, and am experienced in these matters; therefore I will go thither, and will bring you back a well-sealed indulgence. I have many great friends there, who will all stand by me; moreover, I will not go without money, for I know that suitors are best heard with gifts, and the law hath no ear to him that hath no gold: money is a true friend in necessity; therefore cast off your grief, and go to the court as soon as you can."

'This, my sovereign king, rejoiced me much, and I resolved to come and relate to you the truth. Therefore if any creature in this court can charge me with any crime whatsoever, and prove it by testimony as the law requireth, or else oppose himself against me hand to hand in single combat, grant me but one day, and equal lists, and I will maintain my innocence against him in the fight.'

When all the assembly of beasts heard this, they were amazed at his boldness. As for the Rabbit and the Rook, they were so scared, they durst not speak, but privately stole away out of the court, and being far on the plain, they said, 'this villainous murderer hath such art in his falsehood, that no truth can look with better countenance; these things only ourselves know, but have no other witness, therefore it is better we depart, than try a combat with him who is so much too strong for us.' And so away they went.

Isgrim and Bruin were very sad when they saw these two forsake the court; but the king said, 'If any will impeach the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: yesterday, we were laden with complaints; where are they to-day? Here is the Fox, ready to answer.'

Then said the Fox, 'Absence makes accusers bold, when presence daunts them; as your highness may see both by the Rabbit and the Rook. But for me it matters not; nevertheless, had they at your majesty's command but asked me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behind me, for I will never hate mine enemies: revenge I look not for, and justice I leave to your majesty.'

Then the king said, 'Reynard, you speak well; yet I fear your grief is not so much as you express.' 'It far surmounts it,' said the Fox. 'No,' quoth the king, 'for I must charge you with one treason; which is, that when I

had pardoned all your crimes, and you had promised me to go a pilgrimage, when I had furnished you with mail, with staff, and all things fitting, then, with the greatest contempt, you sent me back by Bellin the head of Kayward the Hare; a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouller. This you cannot deny, for Bellin at his death revealed the whole history, and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receive.'

At this sentence Reynard was so alarmed, that he knew not what to say. He looked with a pitiful countenance upon all his kindred who stood round about him, and his heart fainted, but none lent him aid. Then the king said, 'Thou dissembling and false traitor, why art thou now so dumb?' But the Fox fetched a sigh as if his heart would break, so that every beast pitied him, save only the Bear and the Wolf, who rejoiced to see his sorrow.

Chapter XI.—How dame Rukenaw answered for the Fox to the King, and of the apologue she told him.

DAME Rukenaw the Ape, the aunt of Reynard, and a great favourite of the queen, was much grieved when she saw this despair; and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence; for she was exceeding wise, and durst speak boldly.

After reverence done, she said, 'My lord the king, you should not be filled with anger when you sit in judgment; discretion only should accompany you in that duty. For my own part I think I know the laws as well as some who wear silk gowns, for I have read much, and I had always in the pope's palace a bed of straw when other beasts lay on the bare ground; and I was suffered to speak freely without interruption, because I talk not beyond my experience. It is Seneca's opinion, that princes are bound to do justice to all, nor may the law shew partiality. I wish every one to know himself, for none is so sure but he may fall; none is so good that he needeth no amendment. To do wrong once or more, is the way of human frailty, but to trespass and still gallop forward in iniquity, is insufferable. He that falleth oft, but in the end arriveth, cannot be said to fail wholly. These sentiments would some take to their hearts, the day would not appear so dark as it doth to my cousin Reynard. It is well known that his grandfather and father had always a better reputation in this court than either Bruin or Isgrim, or their whole generation. When

have their counsels or wisdom been worthy to have held comparison with those of my cousin Reynard's? The usages of the world are to them as riddles, which they understand not, and the court is turned topsy turvy by his absence: the evil are now advanced, and the good suppressed. How this can long endure, I see not, since the end of their labour is but the ruin of your majesty.'

To this speech the king made this answer: 'Dame, had the Fox done to you that wrong which he hath done to others, you would speak in another style. My duty commands me to punish him; he only it is who breaketh the laws. You have heard him accused of theft, murder, and treason; how can you defend him? Believe me there is no one good thing in him; search him, and you will find him rotten at the core. There is neither kinsman nor friend besides yourself that will assist him, and therefore your vehemence draws my greater wonder. What friend hath ever thrived by his society, or whom hath he smiled upon that he hath not after made to weep?'

To this the Ape replied, 'My lord, I love him, and have ever loved him, and I can recount one noble and good action he did in your presence, for which you then thanked him, though it is now forgotten.

'I remember about two years since there came to this court a man and a serpent to have judgment in a doubtful matter, which was thus: the serpent attempting to get through a hedge had been caught by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way to escape with life: a certain man passing by, the serpent called out to him, and entreated his help, or he should perish. Then the man taking pity on him said, "If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do me hurt with thy tooth or sting, I will release thee." The serpent promised he would not: so the man loosed him and set him free, and they went forth and travelled together a long while.

'In time the serpent grew exceeding hungry, and rushing upon the man endeavoured to kill him; but he started aside, and said, "What meanest thou? hast thou forgotten thine oath?" The serpent replied, "No; but I may justly kill thee, since I am compelled by hunger, which cancelleth all obligations." Then the man said, "If it be so, yet let me live till we meet with a passenger who may judge the controversy."

'The serpent agreed thereto; so they travelled till they met with Tisellin the Raven, to whom the dispute being referred, the Raven adjudged that the serpent should eat the man; hoping that he should get a share also. But the

man said, "How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge the cause? it must be done by such as know both law and equity: the Raven is neither just nor indifferent." Then they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolf, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. Then the serpent began to cast his venom at the man, but the man leaped away, and said, "You do me wrong thus to attempt to kill me." And the serpent said, "Hath not judgment gone twice on my side?" "Yes," said the man, "by such as are murderers themselves; but I appeal to the court; let me be tried by your king, and what judgment he giveth I will willingly abide." To this all consented; so they came to the court, before your majesty. Then the full process of the matter was declared; but the man's kindness, and the promise made to him, the serpent's danger, and his attempted breach of faith occasioned by extremity of hunger, caused to your highness much perplexity; for the man's sorrow and the serpent's hunger; the man's goodness and the serpent's ingratitude, equally raised pity in your bosom. In a word, such doubts arose, that not one in your court was able to judge it.

'At last, when no help could be found, then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to decide the business. He was at that time the oracle of the court, nor was any thing received but what he propounded; he told your majesty that it was impossible to give judgment according to their testimony, but if he might see in what manner the serpent had been caught, and what his danger had been, then he should be able to decide. You commended him, and approved that which he had spoken. Then went the man and the serpent to the place where the serpent was trapped, and Reynard commanded the serpent to be fastened on as before to the snare; which being done, then said your majesty, "Reynard, what judgment will you now give?" And he replied, "They are now, my lord, in the same state they were at their first encounter; they have neither won nor lost, therefore this is my judgment, under your majesty's pleasure; if the man will now unbind the serpent upon the same promise made formerly to him, he may do so; but if he think that hunger will make the serpent break his faith, then may the man freely go whither he will, and leave the serpent bound as he first found him.

'This judgment your majesty applauded, and held the wisdom of the Fox inimitable. When did the Bear or Wolf do the like? They can howl, or scold, steal, rob, and eat fat bits. They will condemn him to death who

takes a chicken, but themselves will kill kine, oxen, and horses. These, my lord, and the like of these, are the fools of these corrupt times; they destroy towns and castles, land and people, nor care they whose house burns so they may warm their fingers. But Reynard the Fox and all his family have ever made the honour of the king their aim and object, and have applied their counsel to do him service; this hath been and is still his endeavour, though it now be thankless; but time I hope will shew whose merit is greatest. Your majesty says his kindred is fallen from him: had any but your highness affirmed this, you would then have seen there could not be a greater mistake; but your grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word oppose you; Reynard and myself would unite our strength against any one who should do so. Your highness may call to mind the greatness of our pedigree, and how dearly from time to time his friends have respected him, willing to lay down their lives for the noble Reynard. For mine own part I am of his race myself, and although I belong to another family, yet for him I would not hesitate to spend my dearest blood. I have also three full grown children, who are known as valiant and strong in arms, yet for his sake I would venture them all to peril, though I love them with that affection that no mother doth exceed me; my first-born is called Bitelas, the most active and nimble; my second is Fairlimb, the third is a daughter called Hartnet.' With that she called them forth, and said, 'Come, my dear children, and stand with your kinsman, the noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all petitioners to the king for justice to him.'

Then came forth a crowd of other beasts; the Squirrel and the Ferret, for these love poultry as well as Reynard doth; then came the Otter, and above twenty other beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard; then came also dame Arrot the Weasel, and her two sisters, and Baldwin the Ass, Grimbard the Brock, and the Beaver, and many others to the number of almost a hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection as if his trouble did equally concern themselves. Then said Rukenaw, 'My lord the king, now you may see that my kinsman hath friends that dare avow him, and we are your true and loyal subjects, who will never fail to do you faithful service; therefore let us with one voice beg of your majesty that Reynard may have justice; and if he be not able to nonsuit his adversary, and clear himself of the crimes imputed to him, let the law pass; we will not murmur at his fate.'

Then said the queen to Rukenaw, 'Thus much I told

his majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not hear me.' Also the Leopard said, 'Sire, you must judge according to evidence, for government by mere will is tyranny.' Then answered the king, 'It is true, but the disgrace done to myself in Kayward's death, and some other accusations so robbed me of patience, that I could not look either to law or reason; therefore now let the Fox speak boldly, and if he can acquit himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for your sake, who are his dear friends, and whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.'

How glad was the Fox when he heard these words; he said in himself, 'Thanks, my noble aunt, a thousand times; thou hast put new blossoms on my dried roses, and set me in a fair path to liberty. I have one good foot to dance with, and I doubt not to use my art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembered as the day of my victory.'

CHAPTER XII.—How Reynard excused himself of Kayward's death, and all other imputations. How he got the King's favour, and made relation of certain Jewels.

THEN spoke Reynard the Fox. 'Alas! my sovereign lord, what have you said? is good Kayward the Hare dead? Oh! where is Bellin the Ram? what did he bring to your majesty at his return? I delivered to him three rich and inestimable jewels, that I would not for the wealth of India should be detained from you. The chief of them I directed to you, my lord the king, the other two to my sovereign lady the queen.' The king replied, 'I received nothing but the head of poor murdered Kayward, for which I executed the Ram, who confessed the deed to be done by his advice and counsel.' 'Is it indeed so?' said the Fox, 'Then wo is me that ever I was born, for there are lost the goodliest jewels that ever were. Would I had died when you were thus defrauded. I know it will be the death of my wife, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me.'

Then said dame Rukenaw, 'Dear nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory wealth? Tell us what manner of jewels they were, it may be we shall find them. We will search all the corners of the earth till we restore them to the king.' 'Oh! aunt,' said the Fox, 'Do not persuade yourself so: whoever hath them will not restore them to gain an empire, they are so beautiful and precious:

yet your words do somewhat appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even innocence itself walks masked and mistaken.' Then fetching a deep sigh, with which he gilded his dissimulation, he said:

'Hearken all you of my stock and lineage; for I will here discover what these rich jewels were, of which both I and the king are defrauded. The first of them, which I intended for his majesty, was a ring of pure gold, and within it were engraved letters enamelled with azure and sable, containing three magic words. For my own part I could not read them, but Rabbi Abron, of Trent, the excellent linguist, who knoweth the nature of all manner of herbs, beasts, and minerals, assured me that they were three names of great power, and whosoever shall wear them about him, shall never be hurt by thunder or lightning, neither shall any witchcraft have power over him, nor shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the ring was enchased a most precious stone of three several colours; the first was a red crystal, glittering like fire, with such brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by night, the light thereof was as great as that at noonday. The second was white and clear as if it had been burnished, and the virtue of it was to cure all manner of swellings, head-aches, or other maladies of any kind, arising from poison, cholic, or indigestion. The last was green as grass, mingled with a few purple spots; and it is asserted by the learned, that whosoever wears it about him can never be conquered by his foes. Again, if any one should wear it fasting, he would be welcomed and beloved in whatever company he chanced to be, though of his bitterest enemies; nor should he ever hear an ill word. And lastly, though alone and unarmed in an open field against a hundred enemies, he should succeed against them all, provided only that he be of noble birth and gentle disposition, for the ring gives no virtue to any but a true gentleman. Considering all these virtues, I thought myself unworthy to retain so excellent a jewel, and therefore I sent it to your majesty, knowing you to be the most excellent of living creatures, and the only one fitted to wear so noble a ring.

'This ring I found in my father's treasury, together with a comb, and a glass mirror, which my wife desired of me. They were wondrous and admirable jewels, and were sent to my lady the queen, because of her grace and mercy towards me. The comb can never be enough praised; it was made of the bone of a noble beast called Panthera, living beyond the greater India. His hue is so beautiful, that

there is no beauty under the sun but hath some likeness in him: and he hath so pleasant an odour, that the smell of him cureth all infirmities, and his good qualities cause all other beasts to follow him. This Panthera hath one broad and thin bone, and when he is killed, all his virtues reside in this one bone, which can never be consumed or destroyed, nor can it perish by water, fire, or violence: and yet it is so light that a little feather can weigh it down. Whosoever once smells it, takes delight in no other smell: he is eased of all his infirmities, and his heart is cheerful and merry ever after.

'This comb is polished like fine silver; its teeth are smooth and even, and between the large teeth and the small, there is a space on which beautiful figures are engraved, adorned with enamel and fine gold; the groundwork is argent and sable, and upon it the history of Venus, and Juno, and Pallas, is wrought in ivory and azure, and how they strove for the golden apple in mount Ida, and how the shepherd Paris was made the umpire of their beauty.

'At that time Paris tended his flocks on the mountain, and when the golden prize was put into his hands to be bestowed on one of the three goddesses, Juno promised him that he should be the richest man in the world if he would give it to her. Pallas said, "That if she received it, she would make him the wisest man of his age, and the conqueror of his enemies." But Venus spoke to him, and said, "What need hast thou of wisdom, wealth, or valour? Art thou not son of Priam and brother of Hector, who are lords of all Asia? Art thou not an heir of mighty Troy? Come, give me the apple, and I will give thee the greatest treasure the world knows. I will bestow on thee the fairest wife breathing, whose equal the sun shall never see again; so shalt thou be richer than riches, and wiser than wisdom, and more valiant than valour: for beauty is the great elixir which turns all into joy and satisfaction." When Paris heard this, he wished to know the lady, and Venus said, "It is Helen of Greece, the gem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes." Then Paris gave her the apple, and confirmed her the fairest of the three. And on another part of the comb was engraved how Paris won Helen, and brought her to Troy, the festival of his marriage, the noble games in his honour, and all other events of that great history.

'The glass mirror, too, was not inferior to the other jewels, for one could see in it whatever was done within a mile thereof, whether by man or beast, whatever the owner wished to know. So great were the virtues of this

rare glass, that I can but shed tears to think of its loss. The wood which served it for a frame was light and smooth, but so strong that it will last for ever, nor can wet or dust, worms or time, destroy it. Its value far exceeds that of gold: it is like the wood of which king Crampart made the magic horse for the love of the beautiful daughter of king Marcadiges. This horse was made with such marvellous art, that whoever rode on it, could make it go above a hundred miles an hour. This was proved to his cost by the king's son Clamades, who being young and stout, and not believing in its wonderful powers, leaped upon it, and turned a pin that was in the neck of the horse. The wonderful machine moved instantly, got out of the palace window, and in a minute had advanced ten miles. Clamades was much frightened, and thought he should never get back again. But of his long journey, his fear, and his alarm, also of his great joy when he understood the management of the wonderful horse, I will say no more, that I may not weary you: I have said enough to prove the high virtue of the wood.

'Of this wood the frame of the glass was made, and upon it were divers histories figured in gold, silver, azure, and precious stones, very curiously wrought, and under each figure was the story told with such art, that any man might read it. In the upper part was wrought a fiery horse, of beautiful proportions, chasing a stately deer: but the horse could not overtake the deer, at which he was greatly enraged; and he went to a herdsman, and told him, that if he would help him to catch the deer, he should have all the profit of it. The herdsman asked him by what means he should help him. The horse said, "get upon my back, and I will carry thee after the deer, until we take him." The herdsman agreed, and mounted the horse, and followed the deer: but the deer fled so fast, that after long chasing, the horse grew weary: so he bade the herdsman alight, for he was tired. But the herdsman said, "I have a bridle in my hand, and spurs on my heels; I know how valuable a servant thou art, and I will never part from thee, but will govern thee according to my pleasure." Thus the horse brought himself into thraldom, and was taken in his own net: for no creature hath a greater foe than his own ill will, and many that seek after others' hurt, do fall into their own destruction.

'In another part was engraved the story of the Dog and the Ass, who were both the servants of a rich man. This man was very fond of his dog; he would often play with him, and suffer him to fawn upon him, and leap upon him,

and lick his face. Now when the ass saw this, he began to envy the dog, and he said, "What does my master see in this foul hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him and kiss him? He does him no profitable service, while I draw, and carry, and work more in one week than the dog and all his race could do in a year. Yet I have not a tenth part of his favours; he sitteth by his plate, eats of his best meat, and sleeps on cushions and carpets: while I who do every thing, am fed with nettles and thistles. I will no longer endure this, but will study to gain my master's favour, as much at least as the dog, if not more." When the master came home, the ass determined to begin; he ran up, leaped upon him with his fore feet, and tried to kiss him; but so roughly that he rubbed the skin off his ears, and nearly threw him backwards; so that the master cried out "Help, help, the ass will kill me." Then came in the servants with staves, and they beat the ass so unmercifully, that he was almost killed. Therefore the ass returned to his state again, and remained an ass ever after. Thus do they suffer who envy others' welfare; an ass is born to eat thistles, and where asses govern, there is no good in the kingdom, for they can see nothing beyond their own foolish fancies: 'tis true asses are sometimes promoted; the more's the pity.

'In another part was figured the story of Tibert the Cat, and my father Reynard; how they travelled together, and pledged their troth that neither for love nor hate would they leave each other. But once upon a time they saw hunters with a pack of hounds come running over the country: and they fled apace, for their lives were in danger. Then my father said, "Whither shall we flee, Tibert, for the hunters have seen us? for my own part, I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as you abide with me, you need not fear." But Tibert was much frightened, and he said, "Alas! Reynard, I have but one wile, and that must help me:" and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high tree, where he lurked among the leaves, so that neither huntsmen nor dogs could reach him; and he left my father to abide the danger, with all the pack pursuing him, and the woods echoing with the cry of "Kill the fox, kill the fox." When Tibert saw this, he mocked my father and said, "Now cousin Reynard shew forth all your wiles, for if your wit fail you, I fear your body will perish." My father heard this from the creature he most trusted in; he was almost spent, the dogs were at hand, and his wiles would all have been in vain, had he not luckily espied a hole, into which he crept, and escaped the hounds and the hunters.

Thus may you see the false faith of the Cat, who hath many others like him. I might well be excused for not loving him, but I wish him no harm: though I confess I cannot be sorry to hear of his misfortunes, and that not for hatred, but for remembrance of my wrongs, which is too strong for my good resolutions.

'There was also engraved another story of the Wolf; how he found once upon a heath a dead horse, whose flesh was eaten away, and he was fain to devour the bones; and this he did so greedily, that one stuck fast in his throat, and was well nigh choking him. Upon this he sought for a cunning surgeon, promising great rewards to whomsoever should ease his torment. At length he met with the Crane, and besought him to help him with his long neck, and said that he would reward him. The Crane, to gain the reward, put his long neck into the Wolf's throat, and drew out the bone. The Wolf started at the pull, and said aloud, "Thou hurtest me, but I forgive thee. Yet I charge thee do not so again; for at another's hands I would not bear it." The Crane replied, "Go and be merry, Sir Isgrim; for you are cured. I desire no more than the reward you promised me." "How!" quoth the Wolf; "what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet this fellow wants a reward, and will not so much as thank me for his life; forgetting that I had his head in my mouth, and allowed him to draw it out again, although he put me to much pain. It is I who deserve a reward, and not the Crane."

'All this, and much more than I can remember, was curiously wrought upon the glass; for the maker was the most cunning workman alive. And because such jewels were too precious for me to keep, I sent them as a present to their majesties, in token of my faith and service. Any one that had seen the sorrow of my children when the glass was sent away, would have pitied them; for they often gazed at it to see their persons, and how their clothing became them.

'Little did I think how near good Kayward was to his death; for I knew no messenger but him and Bellin the Ram worthy to carry such a present. I will search the world, but I will find the murderer; for murder cannot be hidden. He who knows what is become of Kayward, is possibly now in the presence; for many evil ones do pass themselves for innocent.

'But my greatest trouble of all is that his majesty should say that neither my father nor myself ever did good. The cares of state may well breed forgetfulness in kings, or your majesty might call to mind how when the king your

father lived, and you were a prince of two years' old, my father came from college, where he had made himself so famous for his knowledge of physic, that he wore garments of silk and a golden girdle. When he came to the court, he found the king grievously sick, at which he was much afflicted; for he loved the king exceedingly. And the king rejoiced at seeing him, and would suffer no other to come near him. Your father said, "Reynard, I am in great pain, and I feel my sickness increasing." My father examined into his case and answered, "My dear lord, if you will be eased of your malady, you must eat the liver of a wolf seven years old; else your disease will never be cured." The Wolf at that time stood by your father, but said nothing. Whereupon the king said, "Sir Isgrim, you hear there is nothing that can cure me but your liver." The Wolf replied, "Not so, my lord; for I am not five years old." "No matter," said my father, "let him be opened; and when I see his liver, I will tell you if it will do." Then the Wolf was taken to the kitchen and opened, and the king ate his liver, and was soon cured of his disease. And the king thanked my father, and commanded all his subjects, on pain of death, to call him from thenceforth Master Reynard. So he remained near the king, and was trusted by him in all things; and the king gave him a garland of roses, to wear upon his head as a mark of honour.

'What I have now related, my lord, fell out in your youth, and you may well forget it. But I may say, without boasting, that I have myself rendered your majesty both honour and service, though you may have forgotten what I am about to relate; which I now do, not to upbraid your majesty; for you are worthy of far more service than ever I can render, but only to justify my boasting.

'It fell out, that Sir Isgrim and I went a hunting together, and we caught a pig, which because of his loud screaming we were forced to kill. At that moment yourself came out of a neighbouring grove, and you saluted us like a friend, and said that you and the queen were very hungry; and you entreated us to give you a part of our chace. Isgrim then began mumbling, so that none could understand him; but I said aloud, "With all my heart, my lord; and were it better than it is, it would be too mean for you." But Isgrim growled as usual, and in a very rude way seized one half of the pig, leaving your majesty and the queen only a quarter for each of you; poor I had nothing but the refuse. When your majesty had eaten, you were still hungry, but Isgrim would not give up any, and therefore you gave him a blow with your foot, which tore the skin

about his ears, and sent him off howling. Then your majesty commanded him to return speedily, and bring you more meat; but he went off grumbling, and I begged your majesty's leave to go with him to hasten him. So away we went together, and soon caught a calf; and when you saw us bring it, you laughed, and said to me that I was a swift huntsman to find my game so soon, and you bade me divide it. I obeyed, and gave half the body to your majesty, and half to the queen; the inside I gave to your royal children; the head to the Wolf, and the feet I kept for myself. Then your majesty said, "Ah, Reynard, who taught you to divide so well?" "My lord," replied I, "he who sits here with his broken head." For he had lost his skin by his folly, and by his greediness gained only shame and dishonour. But no matter; there be many wolves in these days that would eat up their best friends and kin; nay, even your majesty's self; for they respect no one. But woe to that land where such as these have the upper hand.

'This, my lord, and many such deeds as this, have I done for your majesty's service; which, but for tediousness, I could relate to you. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance; though I hope that time and my loyalty will one day recall them to you. I have seen the day when no business was complete in the court without my advice; and though my judgment is not now reputed, yet it may be, it shall be once again in favour, and be believed as firmly as before, so long as it swerves not from justice, which alone I aim at. If any accuse me of injustice, and can prove it by witness, here I stand to endure the utmost rigour of the law. But if I am slandered by malice without witnesses, I claim the wager of battle, according to the law.'

Then said the king, 'Reynard, you say well. I know nothing more of Kayward's death, than the bringing of his head to me by Bellin the Ram; therefore I here acquit you of his murder.' 'My dear lord,' said the Fox, 'I humbly thank you; but his death is so grievous to me, that I cannot let it pass so easily. I remember that my heart was heavy at his departure, and my spirits very low; which was a sad presage of the loss about to follow.'

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox, so affected the beholders, that they believed all he had said; every one of them lamented his loss, and pitied his grief. But the king and queen were touched, both with his sorrow and with his praises of the jewels, which they begged him to use all his endeavours to find again. And as he had told them that he intended the jewels for them, although they had not received them, they gave him as many thanks as

if they had them in safe possession, and entreated him to find means to restore them.

Chapter XIII.—How Isgrim again complained of the Fox, and how they prepared to fight.

THE Fox heard the king's words with all humility: and although he had no thought of performing his promises, he thanked their majesties for the comfort they bestowed on him, and vowed that he would not rest night or day, but search through all the world until he had found the jewels.

Then the king assured him, that so soon as he should find out where the jewels were, no help should be wanting. The Fox humbly thanked the king; he had now got all he wanted, and by his false tale and flattery he had so bound the king to him, that he might do what he liked, and none durst complain or accuse him. But Isgrim stood all this while in high displeasure; and not being able to contain himself, he said, 'O my lord, is it possible that your majesty should be so easy of belief as to trust in the lies of this deceiver? Be not seduced by him; he is a wretch covered with murder and treason, and dares to make a scoff of your majesty, even before your face. I am glad he is here in your royal presence, where I may shew up his villanies in such a light, that all the lies he can invent will not bear him away in safety.

'I will shew your highness how shamefully he cheated dame Herswin not long ago. They were travelling together by a large lake on a winter's day, when he persuaded my wife that he would teach her a new and curious way to catch fish with her tail, by hanging it down like a fishing-line into the water. He told her so many fish might be taken in this way, that a dozen wolves could not eat them. My poor foolish wife, believing his deceitful tongue, walked some way through the mud until she came to the deep water, and then she held down her tail as he directed her, expecting the fish to come and bite. But the weather was so cold, and she stood there so long, that her tail was frozen hard into the ice, and with all her strength she could not pull it out again. Then the villain mocked and jeered her while she stood howling with cold and pain. He cannot deny this; for I myself caught him, having heard her cries; and he, seeing me approach, ran away like a coward as he was. I had a world of trouble before I could break the ice about her; and in spite of all my trouble, she was obliged to leave a piece of her tail behind her. Indeed, we were both

in great danger; for my poor wife's cries alarmed the people of the village, who came running with staves and bills, and flails and forks, and the women with their distaffs; and they so assaulted us, crying, "kill, kill," and "slay, slay," that I was never in so desperate a case. One strong and swift fellow among the rest did us much hurt with his pike-staff, and had not the night befriended us, we should never have escaped the danger. Thence we came to a field full of broom and brambles, where we hid from the fury of our enemies. Thus, my gracious lord, you have heard how this traitor and murderer hath used us, and we claim justice against him.'

Reynard then answered, 'If this were true, I confess it would touch my reputation; but it is a vile slander, and cannot be proved against me. I confess I taught her to catch fish, and how to enter the water and never touch the mire. But her greediness so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ran without attending to my directions, and so reaching the ice, she was there frozen, because of too long tarrying; for she had more fish than would have satisfied twenty reasonable appetites. But it is an old saying, "covet all, lose all;" and covetousness seldom bringeth any thing well home. When I saw her so fastened in the ice, I used my best endeavours to loosen her, but to little purpose; for by reason of her weight, I was not able to move her.

'Now whilst this was doing, Isgrim came, and seeing what had happened, he fell into a great rage; he began to abuse dame Herswin, called me all manner of names, and threatened vengeance against me; so that more to avoid his noise than from fear, I went my way. Then he came, and with great ado, and much heaving and pulling, he helped her out; and they, almost dead with cold, ran and skipped up and down the fields to get themselves warm. This is all truth which I have spoken; for I would not utter a falsehood before your majesty to be master of millions; truth is my badge, and hath ever been the ensign of all my ancestors; and if there be any doubt of my assertion, I ask but eight days to confer with my learned counsel, at the end of which I will so prove my words by the testimony of good and sufficient witnesses, that your majesty in council cannot but yield to the justice of my cause. What have I to do with the Wolf? It is well known that he is a notorious villain, and false to your majesty, and as to the trick which he says I played his wife, I appeal to herself whether it be not a base falsehood; provided she be made free of her husband, whose tyranny will compel her to say any thing, however unjustly.'

At this dame Herswin stepped forth and said, 'Oh, Reynard, thou hast so oily a tongue, thou art so dipped in flattery, that no one is safe from thee. Not once only, but oftentimes thou hast cheated me. Remember how thou didst use me at the well, with two buckets hanging at one rope which ran through a pulley, so that when one went down the other went up. Thou didst get into one of them, and didst fall down to the bottom, where thou sattest in great danger until I, hearing thy moans, ran thither in great haste, asking thee how thou didst get there. Thou saidst thou wert there a fishing, and that thou hadst caught and eaten so many fish, that thou wert nigh bursting. And when I asked how I might come to thee, thou saidst, "Aunt, leap into the bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt be presently at the bottom." This I did, and being heavier than thou, I went quickly to the bottom, and thou gottest to the top. And when I was angry, thou saidst, "Aunt, this is but the way of the world; one falls and another rises." And saying this, thou didst leap out of the bucket and run away, leaving me alone, where I remained all day, starving with hunger and dying of cold, and receiving so many blows before I could get out, that my life was in great danger.' 'Aunt,' replied the Fox, 'though the blows were painful to you, it is better you should receive them than I; for you are the stronger, and better able to bear them. Moreover, aunt, I have taught you a lesson of wisdom, never to trust any one, either friend or foe, when his advice tends to get him out of danger; for we all love ourselves best.'

Then said dame Herswin to the king, 'I beseech your majesty to mark how this dissembler can blow all winds with the same breath, and paint all colours with the same brush. I could tell a hundred of his false knaveries: once he betrayed my husband to my aunt the Baboon, and before he could escape, he lost one of his ears. If the Fox dare for once to tell the truth, I desire no better evidence against him than his own tale.' The Fox instantly caught at this, and said, 'Willingly I will do it, and that without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I pray your majesty to lend your royal ears.

'Once upon a time, the Wolf came to me in the forest, and complained that he was exceeding hungry. I never saw him fuller, but he was always a dissembler. However, I pitied him, and said that I was hungry as well as he. So away we went, and we travelled half a day together without finding any thing; then he began to cry and whine, and said he could go no further. Here we spied a hole close by a hawthorn tree, and heard a great rustling within, but

could not guess the cause. I desired the Wolf to go in, and try if he could find any thing that would serve us; for something I knew there must be. But he said, "Cousin, I would not go in for a hundred pounds, unless I knew what was there; for it may be dangerous: but if you will try yourself, who have art and wit to get yourself out of danger, I will stay under this tree till your return; and I pray you make haste, and let me know what there is as soon as you find it out."

'Thus, my lord, did he cause me, a poor weak beast, to try first this danger; and he who is large and strong, lay in peace without, while I for his friendship determined to abide the hazard. I entered into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious; but at last I saw a great light which came in at the other end of the cavern, and by it I saw lying a great baboon, with eyes sparkling like fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and with nails on her hands as sharp as bodkins: a more dreadful beast I never beheld. By her side lay several of her children, as ugly and as cruel as herself. When they saw me, they gaped on me with their mouths, so that I was frightened, and wished myself far away. However, I took courage, and resolved, that now I was in, I would acquit myself as well as I could: I therefore looked boldly at her, and methought she looked bigger than Isgrim, and the smallest of her young ones larger than myself. They were all so dirty, that I thought I should have been poisoned. However, I thought it best to speak them fair, and therefore I said, "Long life to you, aunt, and happy days to you and my cousins, your pretty children; really, they are of such surpassing beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of princely issue. Truly, aunt, I am delighted to behold such a beautiful family. When I came into this part of the country, I could not rest a day without coming to visit you." She replied, "Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome; you have found me in a sad sluttish state, but I thank you for your kind visit; you are renowned for your wit and judgment throughout the king's dominions, and you do much honour to your kindred. I must entreat you to take charge of my children, and instruct them in the sciences; that they may know how to live in the world. I have thought of you ever since they were born; and have resolved upon this, cousin, because I know your good qualities, and that you keep company only with the good and virtuous."

'I was glad enough when I heard these words, which proceeded from my calling her aunt. She is no kin what-

ever to me; for my true aunt, indeed, is dame Rukenaw, who standeth yonder, and is the mother of excellent children. Notwithstanding this, I thus answered the foul monster, "Aunt, my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your command." I now most heartily wished myself far away; for I was almost poisoned in that close and dirty cavern. I also pitied Isgrim, who was sore distressed with hunger all this while; and I therefore offered to take my leave, pretending that my wife would be uneasy till my return. She said, "Dear cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something. I shall take it unkind if you do." Then she rose up, and led me into an inner room, where there was great store of all kind of venison; red deer, fallow deer, and roes; and so many partridges, pheasants, and other fowls, that I was astonished. When I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side and half a haunch of a fat doe, to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me; and so taking my leave, and being entreated to visit her often, I departed much rejoiced that I had sped so well.

'Now being come out of the cavern, I spied where Isgrim lay groaning pitifully, and I asked him how he felt. He said he was so faint with hunger, that if he could not get some meat, he should certainly die. Then I had compassion on him, and gave him the fat meat I brought from the cavern, which preserved his life. For this he gave me many thanks, much as he tries to injure me now. As soon as he had devoured my venison, he said, "Reynard, my dear cousin, what did you find else in the hole? for I am now more hungry than ever; this little morsel hath served only to sharpen my appetite." "Uncle," replied I, "get you into the hole, and there you will find my aunt, with her children; if you can flatter her, and speak her fair, you need not fear any ill, and all will go as you could wish."

'I think, my gracious liege, that this was warning enough for any creature of wisdom; but rude and barbarous spirits are never advised. However, he promised to follow my counsel, and down he went into the murky den; there he found the baboon, lying as I have said. He was startled, and cried out, "What wretched sty is this? Did ever mortal see such dirty whelps? Drown them, pray drown them, they are so hideous, they would frighten a scarecrow; their horrid ugliness makes my hair stand on end." "Sir Isgrim," said the Baboon, "their ugliness is no fault of their own, nor is it your business; they are my children, and I am their mother. A fair kinsman of their's was here to-day,

and is but just gone, who far exceeds you in birth and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely. I care not for your opinions, and you may go away as soon as you please." Isgrim replied, "Dame, I want some of your meat; it is much fitter for me than for those ugly urchins." She told him she had no meat for him; but he said he would soon find meat enough; and with that he tried to seize some, when up started my pretended aunt and her children, rushed upon him with their sharp nails, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his ears. I heard him cry and howl lustily, and he had nothing for it but to get out of the hole as fast as he could. When he appeared, he was well beaten and well bitten; his skin was slashed like a Spanish jerkin, and one ear was left in the cave as a pledge for his better behaviour.

'When I saw him in this condition, I told him I feared he had not flattered enough. He said he had spoken as he found them; for the mother was an ugly beast, and the young ones a set of hideous little monsters. I told him he should have commended their beauty, and called them his best kinsfolk; but he replied that he would have seen them all hanged first. "Then," quoth I, "you cannot complain of the usage you met with. Fair words cost nothing, and never come out of season. Civility is no falsehood, and even our betters will go so far as to say that, and farther too, if the truth be told."

'Thus, my lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red night-cap; and this he cannot deny, for it is all true, without deceit.'

The Wolf replied to the Fox, "False villain that thou art, I care not for thy gibes and mockeries, but I will reply to thine injuries. You say I was dying for hunger, and that you helped me in my need; thou liest like a dog. It was nothing but a bare bone thou gavest me, from which thou hadst gnawed off all the meat. Thou hast accused me of treason against the king; saying that I have compassed his majesty's death for certain treasures lying in Husterloe; another base and childish falsehood. I have forborne you too long; but look not for further escape. There is now no need of further testimony than that of our own consciences; therefore, before my lord the king, and the rest of my noble lords, my friends and kin, I here affirm and avouch to the last gasp of life, that thou, Reynard the Fox, art a false traitor and a murderer; and this I will make good upon thy body in fair duel before the king, body against body, until one of us shall fall. In witness whereof, I here cast thee my glove, which I dare thee to take up,

that I may be righted of my wrongs, or else die like a recreant.'

Reynard was somewhat perplexed when he saw this; for he knew he was much weaker than the Wolf, and he feared he might come by the worst. But then he remembered that he had one advantage in the Wolf's claws having been pulled off, he not being yet completely cured; so he replied boldly, 'Whoever he be that sayeth I am a traitor and murderer, I say he lieth in his throat, and Isgrim above all others. Fool that thou art, thou urgest me to thine own destruction; all thy words I will prove to be false and traitorous, and in token thereof I take up thy gage, and here throw thee mine.'

When this was done, the king received their pledges, and permitted the battle, commanding them to bring forward their sureties, that the combat might take place on the morrow. Then the Bear and the Cat stepped forth, and offered themselves as sureties for the Wolf; and Grimbard the Brock, and Bitelas the young Ape, became sureties for the Fox. When all the forms had been gone through, dame Rukenaw took Reynard aside, and said, 'Nephew, take care of yourself in this battle; be bold and prudent. Your uncle once taught me a charm of singular virtue for one about to fight, which he learned from an excellent and worthy clerk. And he who shall repeat this charm fasting, shall never be conquered in battle; and therefore, my dearest nephew, fear nothing; for before the fight begins, I will read it over to you, and the Wolf shall not be able to prevail against you.' The Fox returned her many thanks for her kindness and said that he had no doubt of his success; for his quarrel was fair and honourable. And he remained all that night with his kinsfolk, who wore away the time with pleasant discourse.

Dame Rukenaw the Ape thought carefully how she might work for his advantage in the duel; so she caused all his hair to be shaved off from his head to his tail, and then she oiled his body all over with olive oil, and made it so smooth and slippery, that the Wolf could not possibly get hold of him; in addition to which, he was round, fat, and plump, which was greatly to his advantage. Then she counselled him to be wary in the fight, more especially at the outset; to avoid coming to close combat, so as to make his adversary toil and run after him; and in that case to run where there was most dust, which he should strive to stir up with his feet and his bushy tail, so as to make it fly into his eyes; at the same time to keep his tail as close as he could, that the Wolf might not be able to seize upon it, and thereby pull him to the ground. She said that when his

foe was blinded with the dust, he should profit by his advantage, and bite him where he might do him most mischief; then strike him over the eyes with his tail; that this would confuse and bewilder him. 'And thus,' she said, 'you will so tire and weary him, that he will not be able to follow you, the more especially as his feet are not yet fully cured of their wounds, caused by the loss of his shoes, which you pulled off from him; for though his body is large, his heart is small and weak. This, nephew, (continued she) is my advice; and assure yourself that in these cases artifice prevaileth above force. Therefore I pray you so comfort yourself, that not you alone, but all your family may gain honour and reputation from your success. And this is the charm which your uncle Martin taught me, by which you may be invincible in combat. It is as follows. Then she laid her hand upon his head, and said,

Blaerde Scay Alphenio,
Kasbue Gorfons Asbulfrio.

Now, nephew, you may be sure that you are quite free from all evil and mischief; therefore go to your repose, for it is almost day, and sleep will better enable you to win the fight.'

The Fox gave his aunt a thousand thanks, said that he placed the firmest confidence in the charm she had repeated, and told her that he was bound to her service for ever. Then he lay down to sleep on the grass under a tree, until sun-rise: when the Otter came to him, awaked him, and gave him a fat young duck to eat, saying, 'Dear cousin, I have watched all the night to get this present for you; I took it from a fowler, and find it is good: here take and eat it, for it will give you strength and courage.' The Fox thanked him heartily, saying it was a lucky morsel, which he would requite, if he survived that day. He then ate the duck without other sauce than his hunger, and drank four large draughts of water to wash it down. Then he went to the place appointed for the fight, with all his kindred attending him.

When the king beheld Reynard so shorn and oiled, he said to him, 'Well, Reynard, I see you are careful of your own safety, you look more to avoid danger than to gain booty.' The Fox answered not, but bowed humbly to the earth before the king and queen, and went forth into the field, where the Wolf stood ready, boasting and uttering many proud and vain-glorious speeches. The Leopard and the Lynx were the marshals and the rulers of the lists; they first called upon the Wolf to make his declaration;

and he affirmed that the Fox was a traitor and a murderer, which he would prove upon his body, or else be accounted a recreant. Then Reynard affirmed that the Wolf was a false thief and a villain, which he would prove upon his body, or else be accounted a recreant.

When these ceremonies were over, the marshals of the field held them to the challenge. Then every creature departed from the lists, except dame Rukenaw, who stood by the Fox, and bade him remember the words and instructions she had given him. She told him to call to mind how, when he was but a few years old, his wisdom had been reckoned great among beasts, and that now his experience was greater, and his strength not lessened. She bade him fight so as to win the day, which would be an ever-during monument of renown to him and to all his family. To this the Fox replied, 'Thanks, my good aunt, be assured that I will do my best, and not forget one tittle of your advice. I doubt not that my deeds will bring honour to my friends, and cast shame against my foes.' 'Thus may it be,' said the Ape, and then left the lists.

CHAPTER XIV.—Of the fight between the Fox and the Wolf, and of the victory of the Fox, and his advancement to the highest dignities.

WHEN the lists were empty of all but the combatants, the Wolf advanced to the Fox with great rage and fury, striking at him with his fore feet; and would have beaten him to the earth, had not the Fox nimbly avoided the blow. Then the Wolf pursued him several times round the lists, in view of all their friends, and taking much larger strides than the Fox, he several times overtook him, and lifted his fore foot to strike him; but the Fox always avoided the blow, and took advantage of the moment to throw the dust into his eyes; and while he was clearing them, he smote him across the face with his tail, so that the Wolf was excessively annoyed thereat. Then he durst follow the Fox no longer; for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes made them smart so much that he was forced to stop and rub and wash it away. This Reynard seeing, he rushed upon him with all the force he had, gave him three great wounds on the head with his teeth, and said in mockery, 'Take that, Sir Isgrim, you who murder poor innocent lambs, and then lay the fault on me; I can now punish you for all

your crimes; for you are at my mercy: but I am pitiful, and if you kneel down and ask my forgiveness, and confess yourself vanquished, I will spare thy life, wicked as thou art.' These scoffs made the Wolf desperate; he raised his foot, regardless of his wounds, and struck the Fox such a blow, that he felled him to the ground. But Reynard nimbly rose upon him, and then began the tug of war. The Wolf was furious and raging, and ten times he leaped upon the Fox, hoping to give him a mortal bite; ten times the Fox, aided by his oily skin, slipped away, and was so wondrous nimble, that whenever the Wolf thought he had him most surely, then he received some terrible bite, which in spite of his greater strength, brought him almost to despair.

Thus continued the battle; on one side force, on the other cunning; on one side fury, on the other prudence. Now the Wolf began to deplore his sore feet and the want of his claws; he resolved to imitate the prudence of the Fox, so he reserved himself for one blow, which he thought would finish the battle; he therefore watched his opportunity, leaped upon the Fox unexpectedly, threw him to the ground, and fell upon him, hoping with his great weight to press the breath out of his body.

Now the Wolf's friends began to shout for joy, and those of the Fox to look sorrowful. One other attempt Reynard made to escape, but in vain, although in the effort he knocked out one of Isgrim's eyes; but his foe was too powerful, and held him with a mortal gripe, crying out, 'Now, Fox, I have thee; yield, or I will kill thee; neither lies nor tricks shall avail thee aught, but thou must die or be my slave.' Then the Fox said, 'Dear uncle, I yield myself your most dutiful slave; at your bidding I will go to Palestine, or anywhere, and upon any errand whatever; you shall be lord of all my lands and all my revenues, and when I catch poultry, partridges, or plovers, fish, flesh, or fowl, you shall have the first choice of all. I will aid your strength with my cunning, and when united the world cannot conquer us. I am sorry I have fought against you, which I would not have done, but that you challenged me; in the fight I have spared you as much as I could, and have done you no more harm than accidently knocking out your eye; which indeed is in one respect an advantage, for while others see but one eye in you, you will see two in them. Therefore I beseech you spare my life: it is good to be temperate in wrath, and rashness is the parent of repentance. I know you are discreet, wise and valiant, and that you seek honour and renown, rather than vengeance and

bloodshed; my death will avail you nought, but by saving my life you gain a most valuable servant.'

Then spoke Isgrim, 'False cheat, how dost thou cheat thy own self! how well I know that if thou wert once on thy feet, all thy words would be at once denied. But know, that all the wealth of the world would not purchase thy ransom; all thy wealth I esteem no more than I do thee; nor do I believe a word thou hast uttered. O, how thou wouldst triumph and crow, if I should believe thee; thou wouldst truly say my wit was small; but thy many tricks have taught me to see through thee, and beyond thee. I now understand thee much better than thou desirest, and will give thee not a minute to repent in, no more than thou hast given me time to breath in the battle, for all thy vain talking of sparing me in fight.'

The Wolf had better not have been so eloquent; for while he was going on so much beyond his usual way, he forgot himself; his wounds all the while were bleeding, and the Fox seizing the advantage, gave him such a bite in the throat with his sharp teeth, that he fainted. Then the Fox rose up from his desperate grasp, shook himself with a joyful tremor, and gave his fallen foe several bites in token of victory, while the poor Wolf lay as dead upon the sand, and was unable to rise and continue the fight when called by the heralds.

Then the Leopard and Lynx entered the lists, and proclaimed that the fight was at an end; that both parties had behaved fairly and honourably, and that all the field confessed the Fox was victor. Reynard said, 'I humbly thank them, and am ready to obey the king in all things.' Then came Grimbard the Brock, and dame Slopard his wife; dame Rukenaw, and her two sons, Bitelas and Fairlimb; and moreover there came Pancrote the Beaver, and Ordigale the Otter, and the Martin, the Ferret, the Squirrel, the Polecat, the Weasel, and the Shrew, and a hundred more who would never have come had not the Fox gained the victory; many others also came who had formerly been his accusers, but who now were ready to do him service, and proclaimed themselves his dearest friends. Such is the way of the world; the prosperous hath great store of friends, and plenty of service; the poor hath naught but foes, and all his gain is only loss. All these attendants of the Fox proclaimed his victory with shouts and music, trumpets and horns, and hailed him as the greatest of beasts. They then attended him to the king with the marshals walking before, and pipers and minstrels following after.

When Reynard came into the king's presence, he fell on

his knees, but the king raised him up, and said, 'Reynard, you have this day won much honour; I therefore discharge you from arrest, and set you free to go wherever you please. As soon as Isgrim's wounds are cured, I will call together the wisest of my kingdom, when you shall both be sent for, and your contestation fully adjudged before them.'

'My dread lord,' replied the Fox, 'I am well paid with whatever your majesty may adjudge to me. But, my liege, when first I came to court, how many malicious beasts were there whom I have never injured, but who sought my life, joining my enemies against me. They thought the Wolf was in favour with your majesty more than I, and this was the ground of all their malice. They are like a pack of dogs whom once I saw near the house of a rich man; they were there waiting for one of their body, who had gone into the kitchen, and who presently came out with a fat piece of beef in his jaws; but he was followed by the cook, who threw hot water upon him, and scalded him miserably. Then these types of base flatterers, who saw only the fat beef, said, "Oh, how rich thou art, and how art thou bound to the good cook who hath given thee such a prize." But when he came nearer, and they saw how terribly he was scalded, they began to flout him and avoid him, and at last drove him from their company. Such are these, my now devoted followers. I may cheat and plunder the poor, and I am praised and aided by them, that they may lick their fingers by sharing in the spoil; none may offend me, I am the dog with the well-fleshed bone in my jaws. Anon, if I am scalded, I am then fit for no one's company, but am accused, avoided, and execrated.'

The king then said, 'Reynard, you owe me homage and fealty, and I have no mistrust of your good service. I therefore make you one of the lords of my council, and command you to behave yourself with all honour; for I place you in a situation of power and authority, and hope you will administer justice with equity. Remember the moral you have related to me, and be a lover of truth and honour; employ your wit in good actions, and the court cannot do without you. You are a star, whose brightness exceeds that of all others, and while you employ your wisdom in well doing, no creature in my kingdom shall injure you, but that I will take of him a speedy vengeance.'

Then the Fox's friends applauded the king's judgment; and the king said he would for their sakes promote the Fox still further, if he shewed himself deserving; and he begged that they would all admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty, if ever he seemed about to forget it. 'Fear

not, your highness,' said dame Rukenaw, 'we will all watch over him, and if he fail towards you, we will utterly forsake him.' The Fox also thanked the king, and said, 'My gracious sovereign, I am not worthy of these high honours, but I will always study to deserve them; nor shall my best counsel ever be wanting.'

In the meantime Bruin the Bear, and Tibert the Cat, and dame Herswin and his other friends drew Isgrim from the field, laid him upon soft hay, and covered him up warm. They then sent for skilful surgeons, who dressed his wounds, which were five and twenty in number. He still lay in a swoon; but they chafed his temples, and rubbed him under the eyes until he recovered his senses, when he howled so loud, that all who heard were startled at the sound. The physicians then gave him cordials, and an opiate; and they consoled dame Herswin with the assurance that her husband's life was in no danger.

When the court broke up, and every beast returned to his own home, Reynard took his leave among the rest, and the king and queen condescended to request he would not be long absent from them; and the Fox replied that he would always be ready for their service, as was his duty, and not himself only, but all his friends and relations also. Then he departed, not a little glad that he had escaped so well, and was so high in the king's favour, that, as he told his friends, he could now advance whomsoever he pleased, and pull down any who should endeavour to injure him.

After some travel, they all came to his castle of Malepardus, where they took leave of Reynard, who thanked them for the kindness and support he had received of them, and vowed to remain their faithful servant, and to help them whenever his life or goods could be of use to them. So they shook hands and departed.

The Fox then went to dame Ermeline, who received him with tenderness; and he related to her and to their children all the strange events which had befallen him at court, without missing one tittle. And they were delighted at his good fortune; and he spent his days among them with great happiness and content.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

THE

SECOND PART

OF THE

HISTORY OF REYNARD THE FOX.

WRITTEN BY ANOTHER HAND.

CHAPTER I.—How Isgrim the Wolf was made Earl of Pitwood, and appointed to succeed Bellin the Ram; and how Reynard, and Bruin, and Tibert were advanced to great dignities.

NOW was the Fox not only honoured with the title of lord Reynard, but he became very intimate with the king, so that none were admitted to an audience of his majesty, without first obtaining the favour of lord Reynard.

But Reynard knew that he was mortally hated by Isgrim the Wolf, Bruin the Bear, and their friends; and knowing as he did the changeableness of fortune, he feared that one day they might do him some mortal injury; and being unable to destroy them, he thought his best policy was to dissemble, and by doing them good service, make it their interest to serve him. So he sought his opportunity, and one day when he was hunting with the king, and their conversation turned upon the troubles of royalty, and the danger of a discontented people, Reynard said, 'Your majesty has none in your realm discontented except Isgrim the Wolf and his friends. All my enmity to them is long forgotten, and I should be happy if by any advancement of their interests they might be made loyal and grateful servants.' The king greatly praised Reynard's generosity, and asked how this could be done. 'My lord,' quoth Reynard, 'since the death of Bellin the Ram, the professorship of philosophy in the university hath been vacant, and his whole family being extinct, there is no one to take the office. Now Isgrim is learned, he hath been a student in several foreign universities, and hath filled a chair in one of them; if it were your majesty's pleasure, no one would be more fit than he to succeed Bellin.' 'How can this be,' said the king, 'Isgrim is so feared by the students, that none will come to his lectures.' 'Your majesty is always in the right,' replied

the Fox, 'but for this we will find a remedy. Sir Isgrim hath only to put on Bellin's woolly gown, and he will no longer be feared nor hated.' The king was pleased with Reynard's advice, and he ordered Fyrapel the Leopard to summon all his nobles to court on the following morning, and not to forget Bruin and Isgrim.

At the appointed hour all the beasts appeared, and the king addressed Bruin and Isgrim first, saying, in a friendly manner, that he wondered at their long absence, and would have been glad to see them oftener at court. Both started up with angry looks at the Fox, and were about to burst forth with new complaints, when the king interrupted them, and said, 'They were met not to redress private grievances, but upon a public matter, which required the counsel of all, being the appointment of a lecturer at the college.' When the Bear and Wolf heard this, they sat down, and the king said to the Fox, 'Cousin Reynard, our command is that you declare to the council our pleasure concerning this matter.' Then the Fox, after due reverence made, began to speak:

'Worthy lords, it is known to all of you, that for sundry good reasons, it pleased his majesty to deprive Bellin the Ram of his life, and to confiscate his goods to the use of the noble Sir Bruin, and the learned Sir Isgrim, and to their heirs for ever. In consequence of this unhappy occurrence, the office of public lecturer at the university is become vacant; and therefore our mighty prince, having the good of his subjects at heart, has thought proper to call this assembly, and with your advice to make choice of a successor to the chair: after you shall have chosen the person, his majesty will present him for approval to an assembly of the commons, who shall be summoned for the purpose.'

When the Fox had ended, the assembly sat for some time silent; Bruin and Isgrim, hearing themselves styled by the Fox noble and learned, began to have hopes of the appointment, and their choler somewhat abated. At last the king said, 'Sir Isgrim, why are you so silent? Cousin Reynard tells me you are a great scholar, learned in law and philosophy, and that you have taken your degrees in the foreign universities: I hoped that you would have offered yourself for this high dignity.' The Wolf, highly flattered, now spoke: 'My liege, I was kept silent, not by my unwillingness to undergo any trouble or charge for the good of your majesty and the welfare of your kingdom, but because of the unhappy discord which has existed between me and your honourable minister, lord Reynard, upon matters not worth discussion in so noble an assembly—my silence had no other

cause.' 'The lord Reynard is not your enemy,' said the king, 'nor is he any one's enemy; he hath spoken to me most highly of your learning, and of the noble spirit of Sir Bruin the Bear; he hath also much praised the swiftness, subtlety, and policy of Sir Tibert the Cat, upon all of whom I have my eye, and will promote them to some office, in which they may benefit themselves and please me.'

All parties were thus satisfied. The Wolf gave his paw to the Fox, and the Fox gave his to the Bear and the Cat: then all sat down; Sir Isgrim's appointment to the vacant office was put at once to the vote, and carried unanimously.

When the assembly broke up, the Fox and the Wolf retired together to have a little conversation, which began by Isgrim's expression of his gratitude to Reynard, and at the same time his fears lest he should not be approved in the assembly of the commons. 'Ay!' said the Fox, 'are you afraid of your rough look? follow my advice, and there is no doubt of your success. Go home, shave yourself close, and then put on Bellin's coat of wool, which will fit you handsomely, and no one will know you but for one of his kindred: make it a rule to be mild tempered, and above all never to shew your teeth in the day-time; in the night you may do as you please, for we must live, as you know.' 'Excellent,' quoth the Wolf: 'I shall do well, I perceive. But then I fear much that my voice will betray me.' 'Tush,' replied the Fox, 'when you are about to lecture, say you have a cold.' 'But,' quoth Isgrim, 'that excuse will not do for ever.' 'How little you know of office,' said the Fox: 'if you read but once a year it will be much for one so high in dignity; you may keep as many deputies as you like, who will do all the drudgery for you.' The Wolf's spirit rose with every reply, and he now said he had but one difficulty more, which was his name: 'Sure am I,' said he, 'that no sooner shall I be proposed to the commons than the cry will be, "No Isgrim, down with Isgrim."' 'For that,' said the Fox, 'we will find a remedy. Go you home, prepare yourself for your new dignity, and I will confer with his majesty upon granting you a new title, with which you shall be invested before the assembly of the commons shall take place. Keep yourself in readiness to come to court as soon as you shall be summoned for the purpose.'

The Wolf then went home gay an happy, and the Fox returned to the palace to lay before his majesty the new difficulty. The king without hesitation said, that he would at once make Isgrim an earl, and that he should take his name from some place near his habitation. The Fox in-

formed his majesty that the neighbourhood of his house was called Pitwood: 'Then Earl of Pitwood shall be his title,' said the king; 'and as soon as his patent can be made out, send for him, and give it to him, with a grant of all the estates contained under that name.'

When this was ready, Tibert the Cat was despatched as messenger to the Wolf, whom he found in his new attire, and so changed, that he did not know him until he heard his voice. He communicated his message, and away they went together. On their arrival at court, the Wolf was led by Reynard to the presence of the king, who started at seeing the change in his appearance. 'Sir Isgrim,' said he, 'I really should not have known you; you are surely grown younger with your new dignity.' 'Mighty sir,' quoth the Fox, 'I have advised him to shave and dress himself thus, as most suitable to his new office; and have besides given him other instructions, from which I make no doubt he will derive great profit.' 'Sir Isgrim,' said the king, 'Reynard is your best friend; he has recommended you to this high honour, he has given you good advice, and now he has suggested to me that I should confer on you a title of honour whereby your ordinary name, which is distasteful to our good commons, may be laid aside, and you may thus more readily find acceptance with them. I now confer on you the earldom of Pitwood, and grant that large estate to you and your heirs for ever. The old name shall be laid aside, and none shall from this time dare to address you by any other title than Pitwood.' Isgrim, ready to jump out of his skin for joy, bowed with great reverence to the king and the Fox, protested that in future he would do every thing in his power to promote the interest of his majesty and the good of Reynard, and that his own profit should evermore be last in his thoughts, with divers other protestations, in all of which he lied egregiously, as will appear anon.

When the day came for the commons to assemble, the Fox arrived the first at court, and with all humility saluted the king, by whom he was received with his usual courtesy. Then came Tibert the Cat, and announced the coming of lord Pitwood, with a long train of attendants, who were ushered into the presence by the Fox. The earl was, by the king's order, honoured with a chair of state; and his lineage, after due obeisance to his majesty, stood round about the seat of their chief. 'Lord Pitwood,' began the king, 'I am happy to see you here so early, and that all your lineage are so well fitted with the gowns of Bellin and his kindred; you are much indebted to the Fox for his cunning device.'

'Mighty sir,' replied the Wolf, 'you are in the right; and I, with all my family, after your royal self, cannot but regard him from henceforth as our patron and protector, and the preserver of our good name.'

And now came in other nobles, who were delighted with the change in Isgrim's appearance; and fully persuaded that he had changed his nature with his garb. So they took a short repast, and went out to meet the commons, who were assembled in great multitudes in a field near the palace.

When the commons saw the king approaching at the head of his valiant nobles, they all shouted with one voice, 'Long live our noble king!' The royal procession at last sat down, and many comments were made on the appearance of the Wolf, who was thought by some to be a son of the unhappy Bellin, while others said it was some foreign ambassador from beyond the seas. Some of Bellin's friends in the crowd had a shrewd guess who it was, but they dared not speak their thoughts.

Then the king and Reynard, with Pitwood and his lineage, mounted a scaffold, where they sat down, and the king commanded silence; which being obtained, he thus addressed the multitude, 'It is known to many of you, my loving subjects, that for a notorious murder, we removed from all his offices at court and elsewhere Bellin the Ram; since which time he hath been without a successor; and the learned sciences, to which he so largely contributed, have since his death been in some danger of total decay, and you have all been destitute of teachers. To remedy this grievance we have, with the advice of our lords here present, made choice of a very learned scholar, now standing next our person, of whose worth and experience we are fully satisfied. This person, and all his lineage, we recommend to you to be your teachers throughout our dominions.' Thus having spoken, the king sat down.

Then rose lord Reynard, who with a graceful bow to the assembled commons, thus addressed them, 'Worthy sirs, his majesty hath not without much grief reflected on the sad deprivation of public instruction you have all suffered by the death of Bellin and his kindred; and in his wisdom he hath provided a remedy to obviate those enormities which we all are but too ready to run into for want of guides and teachers. Therefore, he hath requested the noble lord Pitwood to devote his great learning to the general good, for the advantage of the whole realm; and this his lordship hath not only promised to do, but he hath also engaged all his kindred to devote themselves to that honourable, but burdensome duty. I hear some of you

surmising that lord Pitwood is some stranger from foreign parts; it is not so, but I cannot be surprised at the suspicion, for he hath hitherto led so recluse a life, devoted only to study, that no hermit could be more unknown to the world than he is. He is, moreover, silent and bashful, speaking little, unless on the subject of his studies; but kind, mild, and gentle withal. Such a one as he is can hardly be paralleled throughout the dominions of his majesty. Those, therefore, who are true subjects of the noble Lion, will signify their approbation of his choice by holding up their right hands.'

At these words, the greatest part of the assembly held up their right hands, and those that least understood what was said, held up both. Then Pitwood and his kindred made low bows to the whole body, but for fear of shewing their teeth, spoke not a word, which was attributed to their great bashfulness. The Fox returned the thanks of the king and his council to the commons for their attendance, and Grimbard the Brock, being made crier on the occasion, dismissed the assembly, who departed quietly to their abodes; the majority satisfied with what had passed, a few doubtful, and some visibly discontented, remembering the mildness and kindness of the deceased Bellin; but they were set down as disaffected persons, and treated by the rest accordingly. Then the royal party returned to the palace, where they dined together with much harmony, and the day concluded with speeches and toasts in honour of the new dignitaries.

On the following morning the king summoned Reynard to the court early, and on his appearance thus addressed him: 'Cousin Reynard, I have been seriously thinking of my promise made to Bruin and Tibert, and I much fear that if I do not make haste to fulfil it, some villanous conspiracy will be brought to bear against my crown; for yesterday I perceived strange looks of treasonable import in their faces. Give me your thoughts on this matter.' 'My liege,' replied the Fox, 'your discernment is infinite; a look has shewn you as much as many days' observation have disclosed to me. Mischief has indeed been brewing; and within these few days Bruin and Tibert have both been filled with thoughts of villany. This I had discovered, but pacified them with promises of your royal favour.'

'Well,' said the king, 'I understand you; it is high time to do something, and I ask your advice, cousin, to what office I may promote them without injury to myself or to the state?' 'Sir,' quoth Reynard, 'consider the natures and tempers of the two, and act accordingly. Bruin

is heavy and lumpish; he loves idleness, and sleeps away one half of his life; an empty title without any duties will best content him. Tibert is active, cunning, and covetous; and some stirring office, with profit, will please him better than all the titles in the world.' 'You judge profoundly, Reynard,' said the king, 'and I will be advised by you. What shall I do for them?' 'My liege, Bruin wants nothing but a title; make him lord of the woods and forests, and he will be more than happy. Then, to kill two birds with one stone, make Tibert his deputy, which will require a person of activity, and produce much profit; and this is just what Tibert requires.'

Then said the king, 'These dignities are great, but as you recommend the measure, I consent, for you are loyal and trust-worthy. To none but you would I so far condescend, and you must be surety for their good behaviour. I have also reflected that you yourself should have some office of dignity, which may ennoble you in the eyes of the world; and although you cannot have more power and influence than you now, by my favour and your own good conduct, possess, yet something more is required for the public. I shall therefore make you high bailiff of all my dominions, and you shall enter upon that office when Bruin takes the title of lord of the woods and forests. I will communicate my resolution to my council to-morrow; therefore call in Tibert, and order him to summon all my nobles to the court.' Reynard bowed his head in token of joyful acquiescence. Tibert hastened to communicate the happy intelligence to Bruin, and the night was spent by all three in pleasing anticipation of the dignities about to be conferred upon them on the morrow.

The council met early on the following morning, and when the preliminary ceremonies were ended, the king thus addressed them: 'My good lords, we have recently taken your advice in the matter of promoting our cousin Isgrim to the office formerly held by Bellin. I have now to call your attention to the good services and high descent of our cousin Bruin, who has been too long in obscurity, without holding any place of dignity. I therefore now create him lord of my woods and forests, in order to bind him more closely to my person, and to make known to all my subjects that we will honour all those to whom honour is any way due. I also hereby make known to you that I appoint Sir Tibert to the office of lord Bruin's deputy, an office for which he is well qualified by his sagacity, diligence, and activity; and which he well deserves for his unwearied zeal in our service. Moreover, as it is our duty to reward

those who admonish us of our duty, we have determined to confer high honours on our cousin Reynard, the preserver of our crown. We therefore create him high bailiff of all our dominions, give him power over all our subjects, and constitute him their judge; reserving only to ourselves the last resort in cases of appeal, and the judgment in right of differences between any of our nobles.'

The king then gave Reynard a gold-headed staff, saying, 'Take this, and let it be borne before you by your cousin Grimbard, or in his absence by Bitelas. Deal justly by all our subjects, decide their differences with impartiality, and be their second father.' Then the king retired, and Grimbard the Brock, taking the staff of office, bore it before Reynard, who went home to his castle, followed by the Wolf, the Bear, and all the other nobles, who took leave of him at his castle gates.

Chapter II.—How Reynard behaved in his new offices, and of his treason and defeat.

WHEN Reynard found himself thus raised to almost the highest estate in the kingdom, he was puffed up beyond his accustomed prudence, and began to conceive hopes of climbing higher than was befitting a loyal subject. He did not however omit any of his usual duties to the king, but continued to serve him, to all outward appearance, as heretofore, while he was in truth weakening his hold on the affections of his subjects by misgoverning in his name, by receiving bribes and thereby amassing large sums of money, and by making valuable presents to the nobles of the court so as to win them over to his wicked schemes. The Lion was now growing old, and the Fox taking care that no complaint should ever reach his ear, he supposed that every thing was going on well; and he blessed himself in having so good a deputy, who took all the trouble of reigning off his hands, and gave satisfaction to every body. At the same time the Fox engaged his best friend, Bitelas, to spread reports of the old Lion's gradual decay, and to sound the opinions of the nobles about selecting a prince of a new family in case of his death, instead of electing the son of the old Lion.

Bitelas performed his task well, and went even farther than Reynard had at first intended. He made promises to one, held out hopes to another, and gave money to a third, until he had brought them all over to the opinion

that the Fox would prove a better king than the Lion, and that although it was too soon to say any thing about it as yet, means should be gradually prepared to make him so by force, if the Lion should not die soon enough. The evil course thus begun was soon hurried on faster than the actors would have desired. Each one was afraid of treachery on the part of the rest, and considering that a discovery would end in ruin, they determined to make quick work of it. All was planned by Reynard, who advised that each noble should enlist as many soldiers as he had means of maintaining from among the common beasts, but secretly, and under the pretence of having quarrels with one another; and that on an appointed day, when the king held his annual family dinner, to which none but those of the royal race were admitted, an attack should be made on the palace, and all the inmates put to death.

In the mean time Reynard strongly fortified his castle of Malepardus, and supplied it with provisions to last a long time in case of siege, and soldiers were enlisted to the number of four thousand. This was done with the utmost secrecy, and the poor king unsuspiciously gave notice to the members of his family that the usual dinner should be held on his birthday, when all were expected to be present. The ancient monarchy seemed to be approaching its fall, and the rule of cunning was about to take place of the rule of justice and right: the conspirators were ready and resolute, and all would soon have been over.

But on the day before the intended outbreak, Sir Fyrapel and his cousin the Panther were troubled with very serious thoughts; they looked sad and anxious to each other, and each seemed to be thinking the thoughts of the other. The Leopard first spoke: 'Cousin, I am in great trouble of mind about this matter which is in hand; it seems to me we are engaged in a toil from which there is little hope of good. Why are we so suddenly become traitors to the Lion, who never injured us, and who deserves the love of his subjects better than Reynard, who in truth I suspect to be deceiving us?' The Panther replied, 'I have had no sleep all night about this very thing; but what is to be done? If we betray the plot to his majesty, he is so wrapped up in Reynard, that we shall get only punishment; for the Fox hath a tongue so smooth, that he will beguile the king to our certain ruin.' 'You say true, Panther,' replied the Leopard; 'but it is a risk either way, and better be killed in a good cause than in a bad one. I am resolved to disclose the whole to the king, and to beg his majesty to detain us prisoners until the intended attack be made, but to have

also a guard secretly in the palace, so as to resist with firmness when the traitors come.' 'Ay,' quoth the Panther, 'and then Reynard finding we are absent, will come to the court, and excuse himself by accusing us, and we shall suffer both as false accusers and as traitors.' However in spite of his scruples the Panther was prevailed upon to run the risk, and to trust to the king's mercy; and so away they went to the court together.

On their arrival they found the king alone; they bowed themselves in the dust before him, but neither dared to speak. At length the king said, 'What would ye, my lords? Why do ye look so sad?' 'My liege,' replied Sir Fyrapel, 'we are come to offer up our lives to your majesty, in expiation of our crimes.' 'What crimes,' said the king, 'have ye been guilty of?' 'We have been acquainted with a most bloody treason; we have not revealed it to your majesty, and worse than all, we have not refused to participate in it, until our better feelings were awakened by reflecting on all the excellent qualities of your majesty.'

The king could not speak for a few minutes: the news fell upon him like a thunderbolt, and he felt some alarm at finding himself alone with confessed traitors; at length he said, 'And what are now your intentions, my lords?' 'To disclose the whole treason, to put your majesty in the way to defend yourself and family, and then to submit to any punishment you may choose to award to us and our lineage.' 'Let me first know the conspiracy and the conspirators,' said the king, 'and I will judge as a king should.'

Then the repentant lords declared the whole matter from beginning to end, in the presence of the king's eldest son, who was sent for to aid in the conference, at their earnest desire; for they knew the king's love for Reynard, and feared that he would wish to send for that arch-traitor, who with his subtle speech would have persuaded the king that the whole was a false lie intended to ruin him. It was well they did so, for the king was very anxious to see Reynard, and hear his excuses, and nothing but the remonstrances and eloquence of the prince could have prevented him from effecting his wishes. Even with all this, the utmost they could persuade him to do, was to have a strong guard at the palace, and to keep the affair secret until an hour after sunset, when the royal family were to assemble; at that hour the advanced guard of the Fox's army was to march to a spot in the neighbourhood in order to watch the approaches to the court, and to be ready to take advantage of any thing that might turn up. In the course of the day, it was determined that the repentant traitors should be

liberated, to prevent suspicion, that they might return to the lord Reynard, and get themselves put in command of the advanced guard; they assured his majesty that the commons about to be used as soldiers, were innocent of treason, and knew not to what they were engaged; that they would be ready to aid his majesty, and would at his word surrender themselves prisoners, unless under the influence of their lords. They advised also that the loyal guards of the palace should meet the Fox's advanced army, and by pretending a flight, draw them from their ambush to the court, where they would be easily overpowered: that in fact they would not resist when they knew the truth. Messengers would then be sent to Reynard, who might be instructed to report to him that his guard had conquered, and it was hoped that he would thus be drawn forth to a premature exposure of his intentions.

Every thing took place as it was intended. The Leopard and Panther returned to Reynard, and deceived him with an account of the king's security, and of the unprepared state of the palace; they also expressed their readiness to take the command of the advanced guard, which was a post of great danger, and had been refused by Pitwood, Bruin, and others: and Reynard was so glad to get over this unlooked-for difficulty, that he took less precautions than usual. He merely recommended secrecy to be observed, and directed Tibert the Cat to go with the guard, not as a combatant, but as an observer; and to return and tell him how matters went.

When the night came, the Leopard and Panther marched at the head of their troops, and took post near the palace, in a dense thicket, where they had not long remained, when the royal guard from the palace made its appearance, under the command of the young Lion. At sight of the conspirators, the royal guards pretended to fly, and were pursued to the inner gate of the palace by Sir Fyrapel the Panther, with his troops; then the draw-bridge was let down, and all were shut in except Tibert, who kept at some distance. After a few minutes' pretended fighting, (for the troops had been quietly told by the Leopard and Panther to make no resistance,) all were disarmed, and a herald, known to Tibert, ran to the bridge and called out, 'All's well: the Lion is defeated, and Reynard is king.' Away ran Tibert, to communicate the joyful intelligence to the Fox, who instantly dispatched a body of his troops, under the command of Pitwood, to take their station close by the palace, as he was even yet too wary to venture too near himself.

On Pitwood's arrival, he was met by Fyrapel, whom he congratulated on his success, and by whom he was invited into the palace to a feast. At the word feast, Pitwood forgot all caution: he abandoned his troops, rushed into the court, where he was seized and disarmed, and consigned to safe custody. Almost all the other nobles were soon after enticed into the court under one pretence or another, and the only one of any importance that escaped was Bitelas, who had been detained by the Fox at a conference, and one of Tibert's brothers, who had slipped out of the court by jumping over a soldier's head, when the others were taken. The troops who remained outside were then suddenly attacked, and being without officers, all ran away. Many escaped to their own homes, a few made the best of their way to Malepardus, to communicate the unwelcome intelligence to the Fox, and several were brought prisoners into the palace.

The wicked Fox was astounded at this succession of misfortunes. With the advice of Bitelas he dismissed a great part of his force, and retained only about four hundred of the boldest and most faithful of the body, with whom he resolved to defend his castle of Malepardus to the last extremity. It had already been fortified and victualled as a measure of precaution against such a misadventure as the present, and it was now the only resource the Fox had left, who was too far endangered with the king, to hope any thing more from his cunning speeches, and who had no more confidence in the success of his falsehood.

Chapter III.—Of the Capture, Confession, and Execution of the traitor Reynard.

By this time the night was over, and the sun had risen brightly on the king and his cause. His majesty felt very hungry, and he commanded that a plentiful feast should be served up for himself and friends, that they should all make merry together. Not a word was uttered during the banquet; but when it was finished, the king addressed the Leopard and Panther in the following words:

'My lords, you have disclosed a most vile conspiracy, and have done it with great prudence; for such was my weakness in favour of that treacherous Reynard, that no course but that which you have followed would have opened my eyes. I thank you both for your return to honour, and all my friends for their good aid and counsel.

I now think it advisable that we should proceed to examine the prisoners, and then we will judge what is best to be done with them; if we find any not guilty, they shall be dismissed at once.'

'My liege,' said the Leopard, 'if your majesty will permit me to advise, after so recent a participation in treason myself, I would say that all the commons are innocent; they were led by their lords, and the most profound secrecy was maintained by us towards them as to the object of this attack. This your majesty will soon discover by examination.' 'Well then,' said the king, 'let them be called in.' So when they were brought in, his majesty asked them why they took up arms against him. They said they were hired by lord Reynard in his majesty's name, but for what purpose they knew nothing; it was their business to fight, and not to inquire; they had considered themselves the soldiers of his majesty. The king hearing the simplicity of their answer, dismissed them, and recommended them to be ready to fight against the Fox when called upon. They replied that they were always ready and willing to draw their swords against the king's enemies; and so they went away to their own homes.

When this was done, the king said, 'Now, my friends, I see Reynard's work in all this, it is managed so craftily; none of these poor fellows knew they were fighting against me, but all thought themselves acting justly. It is, however, very different with the officers, and we shall take a different course with them. Let Pitwood be first called in.' When Pitwood came in, the king said sternly, 'Tear off the villain's disguise, that we may see him as he is.'

Then the Panther in a moment tore off the woolly coat of Bellin, and as soon as the company saw that the disguised philosopher was Isgrim the Wolf, they laughed heartily. When silence was restored, the king said, 'Vile wretch! what has moved thee to conspire the death of one who hath raised thee from meanness and poverty to honour and wealth? Is this a sample of the lessons thou teachest?' The Wolf replied, trembling with fear, 'The Fox gave us many presents, and he persuaded us with his smooth tongue that we should assemble with our soldiers, attack the royal palace, cut off your majesty's head, and crown him king over us.' 'Enough!' cried the king, in a rage which he was unable to conceal; 'chain the villain to a stake, and feed him with bread and water, until we send for him.'

The Wolf was carried off, and Bruin brought in. Bruin said he did not know much about the matter, but that he did as the rest did, because he did not like to be plagued

about it; so he was sent to keep company with Isgrim. All the rest confessed their guilt, merely alleging the persuasions of the Fox and his cousin Bitelas. The Cat alone pleaded his being deputy to lord Bruin, which left him no choice but to follow his master's orders; but as other prisoners said that Tibert with his subtlety rather led Bruin than was led by him, his excuse was overruled, and he was dispatched to fare like the rest.

Then the king arose, and went out with his friends to take a walk through the gardens of his palace, and to deliberate on what steps should be taken. The result of the consultation was, that the king's son should immediately march to Malepardus with the largest body of troops that could be assembled at so short a notice, that they should there summon Reynard to come to answer for his crimes, threaten his castle with demolition in case of his refusal, and offer pardon to the deluded troops who still remained in his service, if they would at once forsake him, and return to their duty. All this was done, and so expeditiously, that the prince and his soldiers, accompanied by the Leopard and Panther, reached the castle early next morning. They invested it on every side, and carefully watched all the avenues leading to it, many of which were holes in the earth at some distance from the walls, but communicating with the interior through underground passages. They soon caught a dozen or more of the Fox's adherents, loaded with provisions, who had been sent out to forage early in the night, and who were trying to creep quietly into these holes; and from them they learned that all the party of Reynard did not consist of more than four hundred, of whom one hundred were then out foraging; but that Reynard and Bitelas were both within, determined not to surrender.

Sir Fyrapel was ordered to take a small body of soldiers, and to get as near the gate as he could, and summon the Fox to deliver himself up. So he took forty men, and advancing as close as he thought prudent, began his dangerous task: 'Sir Reynard,' cried he, 'his majesty, the king of beasts, commands you through me to deliver up your fort and ammunition, or otherwise he is determined to proceed to all extremities against you.' He had hardly got so far, when a shower of heavy stones from the castle walls wounded him and several of his soldiers, and forced him to return to his commander, who immediately issued orders to encamp before the fort, and to place watches on every side, as it was feared that during the night Reynard might make some attempts at an escape. In the mean time messengers were dispatched to the king, requesting him to

send such additional troops as had been levied in aid of the determination made to force the castle.

During this time the Fox was not idle; he reflected that he had lost a good many soldiers who had been intercepted foraging, and he had every reason to suppose that the prince's army would be reinforced by the morning. He therefore determined to make a sally in the night, which should be led by Bitelas, who should creep with all secrecy to the encampment, and endeavour to do as much harm as he could to the royal troops, hoping that he might himself escape in the confusion. Three hundred were selected for this object; they were led on by Bitelas in admirable order and in deep silence, and they reached the enemy without being heard until they were felt. But all was in vain: the Leopard was awake in the rear of the camp, and although wounded by the shower of stones from the castle, he led round a considerable body of his own followers, so as to outflank the attacking party on the right wing, while the Panther under his orders did the same on the left; so that the Fox's party was completely enveloped, while fighting with the main body. At this attack most of them threw down their arms and attempted flight; several were taken prisoners, some slain, and the rest returned to carry the fatal news to Reynard. After the fight was done, the prisoners were counted, and found to amount to one hundred and six: the dead could not be reckoned until day-light, when it was found that although the king had lost but six soldiers, Reynard had lost by death forty-eight, among whom was Bitelas; so that out of three hundred who left Malepardus, only one hundred and forty-six returned.

The news of this victory, and of the death of Bitelas, was carried to the court very soon, and the king was rejoiced thereat. He immediately dispatched the same messenger with orders to his son to proclaim, within the hearing of Malepardus, his royal pardon to all in the castle who would forsake the traitor Reynard, and return to their duty. He communicated to him by the same dispatch, that he had sent out his commands to all the country to rise in arms as speedily as possible, and to assemble at Malepardus in aid of the royal forces there. On the receipt of this order, the young Lion proceeded to the gates of the castle with a small party, accompanied by a herald, who proclaimed with a loud voice, that all those who would return to their duty within three hours, should receive the king's pardon, but that any taken in arms after the expiration of that time, would be put to death without mercy. In a very short time, near a hundred of Reynard's soldiers came out, and begged to be

received into the royal forces, shewing themselves anxious to redeem their treason by assisting to destroy the principal traitor; and in a very short time the troops were reinforced by large bodies, who came in pursuance of the royal command.

The king's son thought it now time to blockade the castle; it was invested on every side: large stones were thrown into all the burrows that could be discovered, so as to prevent escape that way, and strict watch was kept. It was determined to storm the place as soon as scaling ladders could be procured, and every means was put in requisition to forward the preparations. Reynard, in the mean time, had not been idle; he had dug a wide trench within the walls, which he filled with water, and had constructed false wooden battlements all round at the top of the wall, that the assailants might be deceived; while the few soldiers that remained with him were determined and desperate, and awaited the coming assault with extraordinary resolution. The storming began early on the following morning: four hundred of the boldest men mounted the ladders, and climbed the false battlements, deceived, as the Fox expected, by their apparent firmness; but the battlements suddenly gave way, and the assailants fell into the trench, where those who escaped drowning fell by the blows of Reynard's adherents.

This discomfiture greatly perplexed the young Lion, who immediately summoned a council of war, and called before him two or three soldiers who were of the storming party, but who not having so far advanced as the others, had saved themselves by clinging to the wall when the false battlements gave way. These reported that the trench, which was plainly visible from the wall, was crossed by narrow bridges, communicating with the burrows before alluded to, by which the inhabitants entered the castle. Upon this information orders were given for a new assault on another plan; six hundred troops were directed to mount the walls, and to annoy the besieged by every means in their power, but by no means to attempt an entrance; and while this was doing, a strong body was commanded to attempt to creep in through the usual avenues, which were rapidly re-opened and widened for the purpose by their new auxiliaries; and it was hoped that the soldiers in the castle being few, and occupied in defending themselves from the assailants on the walls, they would not be able to defend the avenues. This plan succeeded perfectly; the besieged, it is true, so soon as they perceived the intention of the royal army, proceeded to cut down the

bridges; but the missiles from the party on the walls prevented them from much dispatch, and in less than an hour six hundred troops were in the castle.

And now a dreadful carnage ensued. The king's troops were maddened with the excitement of the attack, and they killed all they saw; the foxes received death in every cruel form with the silence of desperate resolution and a courage worthy of a better cause. Reynard himself was knocked down by a battle-axe, and would have been slain, but that a reward had been offered for taking him alive, and at the moment his life was about to be taken, he was recognized by one of his former adherents, and led out of Malepardus alive. The castle was then pillaged of every thing valuable and razed to the ground; the plunder was divided into three parts; one of which was taken by the prince, another by the officers, and the remainder divided among all the soldiers. After this all the party returned to the court leading the Fox with them fast bound in heavy chains.

On the day following this signal victory, the king sat in his court surrounded by a full council of his friends and lineage, and they consulted how they should proceed with the traitors. It was resolved that the Fox should be the first examined, and then the others; although there was no hesitation in putting them all to death, as taken in the act of treason. Reynard was brought in. The king addressed him with mingled sorrow and rage, 'False traitor, loaded with vice and crime, was it not enough that thou shouldst insinuate thyself into my confidence, creep into the exercise of power, engage me to give high office to thy monstrous and unworthy instruments, Isgrim and Bruin; was not, I say, all this enough, but thou must basely seek to raise thyself by my death to a dignity for which thou art unfitted by nature as well as education? What hast thou to answer to this?'

Reynard, who at first had looked with defiance at the Lion, now held down his head, and said, 'My life is short, and my words shall be but few. I here declare myself guilty of treason, and that I would have slain your majesty, if it had been in my power. My words are ended.' 'It is enough, said the king, 'call in the other traitors.'

When they were brought in, the Lion thus addressed them, 'You have all partaken in the same treason, and you shall all be partakers in the same punishment, except Bitelas, who has met a death too honourable for his merits. Hearken therefore to your sentences.

'You, Reynard, as the chief traitor and contriver of

mutiny and rebellion, shall be ignominiously dragged from this place to the place of execution, where you shall be hanged until you are dead; your head and your right hand shall be cut off, and set up in some public place, as a terror to all traitors for future times.' This same sentence was repeated to Bruin and Isgrim; but in the cases of the other traitors, the decapitation and cutting off the hands were omitted. The council now broke up, after having resolved that the execution should take place on the morrow.

Early on the following morning the king and his friends took their station on the skirt of a forest, at some distance from the palace, where every thing was prepared for the execution. Ladders were raised against as many trees as there were traitors, and an executioner was ready at each ladder. Presently the culprits arrived, all fast bound with chains, accompanied by a good guard, and followed by a dense multitude, shouting and hooting in contempt of the traitors, and satisfaction at seeing an end put to the wicked designs of the Fox, which had so nearly brought the monarchy to destruction.

When all were come, each prisoner was led to the tree prepared for him; and the king caused it to be proclaimed, that if any desired to ease their minds before execution, time should be allowed them to do so. The Fox at these words spoke, 'Dread sovereign, I am much comforted at the liberty afforded me to say a few words of confession before my death, which is no more than I deserve. I have been wicked all my days; and though I have often pretended to a better life, yet it hath never been any thing but hypocrisy. I killed Kayward the Hare, though Bellin died for it. I killed Sharpbeak the Rook, and attacked Laprel the Rabbit, though I basely denied both these accusations. I persuaded your majesty to advance Isgrim and Bruin to high places only for my own ends. I always sought my own interest, without regard to justice, and I took bribes in my office, and thus was enabled to amass much wealth. This gave me the power to make those presents and gifts which have led to my own destruction, and to that of so many others, less criminal than myself, and would have conducted your majesty to an untimely end, but for the happy discovery by the Leopard and Panther, at which I now rejoice.' Here the Fox ceased, and neither of the other traitors shewing a desire to say any thing, the king ordered the execution to proceed.

After all was over, the heads and right hands of Reynard, Isgrim, and Bruin were carried to the palace, and there set on poles, and fixed upon the highest tower of the

building, so that they might be seen by all that passed by. The bodies were then buried in one pit together; and it was remarked that the body of Tibert the Cat stirred a little, as though he were not quite dead; but the earth was thrown in upon him as upon the others, and he was soon gone.

After the well-deserved death of these traitors, the king sought diligently for any remains of Bellin's kindred who might have escaped the massacre made of them by the instigation of the Fox. Three were found of great innocence and simplicity; one of whom, Bellin's grandson, his majesty promoted to the office of privy-counsellor, and made him his most intimate friend. Others were found afterwards in different places, and several of the highest dignitaries of the kingdom, following the king's example, took much notice of them, and admitted them into their houses and at their tables; so that in time the meekness and temperance of their new associates wrought a desirable change in the habits of themselves; they became less hasty and choleric, less greedy and gluttonous; and the king, seeing the great benefit of the change, issued an edict commanding all his subjects, high and low, to hold familiarity with Bellin's kindred, to imitate their example, and to profit by their instructions. This edict was obeyed with punctuality by the commons, who ever after lived in such peace and love, that the like had never been heard of since the beginning of the Lion's kingdom.

END OF THE SECOND PART OF THE HISTORY OF REYNARD THE FOX.

THE HISTORY OF REYNARDINE,

SON OF REYNARD THE FOX.

THE

HISTORY OF REYNARDINE.

Chapter I.—How Reynardine left Malepardus, lost all his patrimony, and became Doctor of Physic.

WE have related in the history of Reynard the Fox how that traitor was deservedly hanged for conspiring the death of the noble Lion; we are now to narrate the events of the life of his favourite son, Reynardine, who with his brother Rossel, were the only members of Reynard's family that escaped the ruin which fell upon him.

These two whelps, who had been early disciplined in the treacherous arts of their father, had left Malepardus before the siege began; having been sent away by him to a distant forest, with great store of his wealth, and much evil advice as to their future conduct; the chief of which was that they should cheat all they could, and that they should seek every means in their power to be revenged on the Leopard and Panther, who had discovered his treason to the Lion. Reynard hoped that he might perhaps escape from his toils, and rejoin his sons in their distant dwelling; but in this, as we have seen, he was disappointed.

When the cubs heard of their father's death, instead of making lamentation, they began like wicked sons to quarrel about dividing his riches. They made so much noise that they were overheard by Corbant the Rook, the old enemy of Reynard, who immediately flew to a wood which he knew was frequented by the outlawed beasts, the sons of the traitors who had died for their participation in the treason of the Fox. There he found the Wolf, the Tiger, and the Bear, all conversing together. He was glad, and he accosted them, saying, 'Noble sirs, I bring you good tidings. The two surviving sons of the traitor Reynard are now in this forest, dividing their father's treasure, which they have brought with them from Malepardus.' 'How say you?' replied the Bear, 'that is indeed good news; for he was very rich; and if it be true, as I heard, that his castle was found almost empty, they must have a vast treasure; all this, my friends, may become ours if we be brave and prudent.' The others fell at once into the views of the Bear, and they concerted a plan to rob the two Foxes as soon as it should be dark. Corbant readily agreed to be

their guide to the spot, and he was promised his share of the spoil.

When night came on, the three thieves were guided by the Rook to the hiding places of Reynardine and Rossel, whom they found watching over their treasures. The strength of the assailants rendered precaution unnecessary; the attack was made upon both at the same instant; and in less time than would take in telling, Rossel, who had more courage than prudence, was slain upon his treasure; and Reynardine, who was never known to resist a foe more powerful than himself, was already far away in flight. The three robbers rejoiced mightily over their ill-gotten spoil, saying they cared not now for their outlawry, that they were as rich as any lord about the king's court, and that they could do as they pleased, and eat daily of the best in the land. They then proceeded to the division of the booty, which was in their case a still more difficult matter than it was found to be by the two Foxes; for they were three instead of two, and more savage in their tempers; besides having made a promise to Corbant to give him a share, which promise they had no mind to keep.

They began by placing their spoil in a great heap, which they agreed should be assorted in small lots, and that each party should choose what pleased him best, taking only one lot at a time. But they could not agree upon the party who should take the first choice. The Tiger claimed the preference, on the plea of the antiquity and nobility of his family, and the beauty of his person; the Bear alleged equal antiquity with the Tiger, said that beauty was merely a matter of taste, and that he thought himself at least as handsome as the Tiger; but the Wolf seized upon the first lot, and said that he cared neither for antiquity nor beauty, that he had got it, and would keep it in spite of both. At this the Bear and Tiger fell upon the Wolf in a great rage, and a fierce battle began between them, which was continued with much noise and tumult. In the mean time the young prince, the son of the royal Lion, who was returning from the chase with his attendants, came near that part of the forest, and hearing the affray, approached the place where the battle raged. Seeing the combatants, he said in an angry tone, 'What means this outrage and tumult at such an unseasonable hour? If this uproar should reach my father's ears, it will tend but little to your benefit.' At this the robbers ceased their fighting, and approaching the young Lion, they humbly demanded pardon, and offered him a large share of their spoil; but the young prince ordered his attendants to drive them away, and carry all the treasure to

his father's palace. How the disappointed robbers fared after this, our history does not say; our further business is with the fortunes of Reynardine.

Although Reynardine fled with great speed from the spoilers who had killed his brother, he did not fail to avoid all traces of any beast more powerful than himself. He kept on his course for a great part of the night, without seeing any one whom he thought of accosting, until early the next morning, when to his great delight he saw at the mouth of a hole near a pond, Brocket, the son of his father's fast friend Grimbard. Both parties were equally pleased at this meeting; for Brocket was good natured, and happy to help a friend in need, and Reynardine was almost dead with fatigue and hunger. Brocket soon brought out something to eat, and after the Fox had well rested, the two friends had some discourse together on the best course that Reynardine could adopt in his unlucky circumstances. After a great many *pros* and *cons*, it was resolved that Brocket should accompany Reynardine to a quiet lodging-house, where he could be accommodated with a frugal meal every day, and shelter at night, on the simple condition of helping in the kitchen, or in any other way that he might be found capable. Reynardine was very glad to get such a good offer; he liked it all very well except the frugal meal; and he secretly promised to indemnify himself for his forced temperance, by creeping out at night and robbing some poultry-yard, or dove-cot; or perhaps by occasionally stealing a sly bit by day, when unobserved by the people of the house. He therefore set out for this charitable abode, in company with Brocket, who introduced him to the principal people of the house, and advised him to keep on good terms with Grimlook the Mastiff, who acted as porter at the gate. When Brocket saw his friend settled in his new lodging, he took his leave of him with many protestations of friendship, and returned home.

Reynardine went on very well for some weeks. He managed to get out very often at night, and seldom without taking a fowl or a duck; and as he was cunning enough to give Grimlook the Mastiff a share of his spoils, and made him thus his friend, he had never any difficulty in getting out. Then his work in the kitchen gave him many an opportunity of pilfering, by which he did not fail to profit; and that at length so largely, that he excited some suspicion among the servants, who could not help remarking that their victuals disappeared much more rapidly than they ought. These suspicions were communicated to the chief cook, who set a watch upon the Fox; and after some days

Reynardine was seen to walk off slily with the leg of a fat capon, which was being cooked for the master of the house. At this discovery he was seized, reproached with his ingratitude, and turned out of the house with disgrace.

Reynardine quitted the house with a sorrowful heart, and now regretted his greediness and imprudence; he travelled for some time without knowing which way to go, and night found him hungry and weary, without food or shelter. At length he stretched himself out under a thick hedge, and fell asleep. Early the next morning he was awakened by the crowing of a Cock, a most pleasing sound to the Fox, and indicative of a good breakfast, if he could but find out the way to catch it. Luckily for him, this proved an easy matter; for the Cock was straying carelessly at a considerable distance from his place of abode,—picking up his own breakfast in a field of ripe corn,—when he became a breakfast to the hungry Reynardine, who, refreshed by so good a meal, proceeded merrily on his journey. The Fox now resolved to go back to the neighbourhood of his old residence, hoping that by this time his enemies would have forgotten him, and that he might light upon some friend who would advise him what to do. He pursued this course; in a short time he found himself among scenes familiar to his early days; and wept for joy as he crept through the holes and burrows, and traversed the lanes and fields that he had known in his youth.

In one of his old haunts he met with Fairlimb, son of dame Rukenaw the Ape, who once delivered his father from great peril. As soon as Fairlimb saw him, he cried out, 'Cousin, I am heartily glad to see you alive and in good health, but am troubled at the danger you are exposed to from the proscription you lie under; tell me what course you intend to follow, and how I can serve you.' Reynardine gave a thousand thanks to his kind friend Fairlimb, told him all his adventures, expatiated upon his poverty, and his willingness to do any thing to gain a livelihood, but protested that he should die with grief, if he could not stay in his native place. As he was speaking, there passed by Baldwin the Ass, in great state, clad in velvet, with a lacquey at his heels. 'Look you there,' said Fairlimb, 'there is one who shall teach you how to live; that Ass is a doctor of physic.' 'How,' replied Reynardine, 'that Ass, so often the jest and laughing-stock of all the beasts of the field!' 'No less,' answered the Ape, 'and he is now on his way to visit lord Fyrapel, who is ill of the gout, and who is so persuaded of Baldwin's skill, that he hath recommended him as physician to several of his friends,

so that the once foolish Ass hath proved himself wise and prudent.' 'But who was his master, and what is his secret for success?' 'Confidence,' replied Fairlimb, 'and a few hard words; he had but to repeat a thousand times that he was the most skilful physician in the world, to make all the fools in the world believe him. I once practised physic myself, and I flatter myself with no little skill. I obtained all the wise patients, and Baldwin the foolish ones; and if you consider how few are the wise, and how many the foolish; and moreover that the foolish often conceit themselves ill when nothing ails them, you will not wonder that I starved while he grew rich. Fools want something new and strange; of wisdom and skill they know nothing.' 'Would I were an ass,' said Reynardine, thoughtfully; 'I should be skilful as Baldwin, and the favourite of the rich.' 'Listen to me,' said Fairlimb, 'I have a lucky thought. I am owner of a good store of lancets, cupping-glasses, combs, razors, scissors, and other implements of the surgeon's art; by the help of these I will shave your tail, dye your coat black, put you on a handsome wig of sheep's wool, and disguise you in such a way, that Reynard himself, if he should come to life, would not know you. You shall then give out that you are a rare leech from foreign parts, able to cure all diseases, and I will be your servant and assistant. The want of a bold face and ready tongue hath been my bane; but with your wit and my skill, it shall be hard if we do not drive as good a trade as our friend Baldwin.' 'Agreed,' said the Fox, with joy; 'the plan is excellent, and must succeed; we will be partners, and divide profits. But when shall we begin?' 'Immediately,' replied Fairlimb; so to it they went. In a few days the Ape had shaved Reynardine's tail, dyed his coat black, and made him a bushy black wig that covered his head and ears completely. They then sat down together to consult about future proceedings.

The result of their conference was, that Reynardine should be dubbed Dr Pedanto, and that he should take up his residence in one of the most public places, publish great accounts of his skill, and of his success in foreign parts; profess to have been physician to three emperors, seventeen kings, thirty-nine royal princes, and an infinite number of nobles of inferior rank; and that he had travelled all over the world and could speak thirty-four languages. He was further to state, that he came to this place only out of kindness to the inhabitants, and would cure all diseases of every nature, internal or external, for the most moderate recompense. All this was done speedily, and advertisements to that effect stuck up on all the trees in the forest. In the

mean time Fairlimb was not idle, but went about expatiating on the wonderful cures that had been performed by the learned Dr Pedanto, all of which he was ready to avouch, until he had created a degree of curiosity among those who could not read, quite equal to what had been produced on the more educated body by the doctor's own bills.

Chapter II.—How Reynardine poisoned the Leopard, and became servant to the Panther.

THE success of their schemes fully answered the expectations of the contrivers; patients flocked on them from all sides, most of whom suffered from their confidence in the new doctor; but his glib tongue carried every thing before him, and poor Baldwin was left almost without a patient. The fame of Reynardine increased daily; his rumoured success among the commons brought him into notice among those of higher degree, and at last he left the care of the low to Fairlimb, and himself attended to the great.

This happy course would have lasted a long time, had he not one day been sent for to Fyrapel the Leopard, who, deriving no benefit from the remedies of Baldwin, had determined to try the skill of Dr Pedanto. Reynardine, upon this application, called to mind the discovery of his father's treason by this very Fyrapel, and resolved to seize the opportunity of taking revenge. He went to the Leopard's house, where he found the young lord Fyrapel, who besought him to give his father a sleeping draught, as the whole household had hardly been able to get a nap for above a week, in consequence of the watchfulness of their master. Now Reynardine saw that the time for revenge was come. He gave old Fyrapel a large dose of opium, and told his son to allow his father to sleep but four hours only, and then to awaken him, or else he said that his sleep would inevitably end in death. He said he would himself stay with them until the sleep came on; but that his care for his other patients would not allow him to remain during the four hours' sleep; he knew, however, that he might trust so excellent a son with the duty of awakening his father at the proper time. While Reynardine was awaiting the effect of the medicine, the young Leopard invited him to partake of some refreshment which was provided for himself; to this he gladly consented, and while they were eating, he slily put a small dose of opium into Fyrapel's dish, which

would produce sleep long enough to prevent him from awakening the old Leopard at the time he stated. By the time they had eaten, old Fyrapel was sound asleep, and snoring loudly. Reynardine was now handsomely rewarded by the young lord, to whom he again repeated his injunctions of awakening his patient at the end of four hours. He then went away.

In a short time after Reynardine's departure, the young Fyrapel began to feel the effects of his long watchings by his father's side, and his drowsiness was much increased by the dose of opium slily administered by the Fox. He resisted the approach of sleep for more than two hours, but at last he dropped off. All the servants of the family were already asleep, as strict orders had been given not to allow the least noise, for fear of disturbing the repose of the patient. The old Leopard, as may be supposed, never awoke more. The young Fyrapel, on his awaking, found him dead and cold. He secretly blamed himself for this catastrophe, which he attributed wholly to his own want of wakefulness, not even suspecting Dr Pedanto, whom he rewarded very liberally for his attendance. He buried his deceased father with great magnificence, and succeeded quietly to his estates, no one having the smallest suspicion of the truth.

Reynardine secretly exulted in the success of his villany; though, as is generally the case, it turned out to be the chief cause of his own downfal. His success among the great had made him proud and ungrateful to his good friend Fairlimb, by whose aid and advice he had risen to his present state; he had for some time been thinking that he could do without him; and now, on the receipt of so large a reward from the young Leopard, he refused to give him his fair share. This produced a quarrel, which led to a dissolution of the partnership between the friends, and subsequently to the ruin of Reynardine, who in his folly had forgotten that it was in the power of Fairlimb to put his life in danger at any time, by merely naming him as the proscribed son of the traitor Reynard. This the Ape did not fail to do, though merely by hints and whispers; but these hints grew to more open reports, and the Fox soon saw himself first an object of suspicion, and then a criminal, sought after for the purpose of punishment. He therefore made his escape by night, sorrowing for his folly, and regretting the loss of so easy a life, and departed once more on his travels, as poor and miserable as when he first returned to his native place.

Reynardine travelled for some time in a state of great misery, proceeding only by night, and lying close by day, until he had got to a good distance from the scene of his

villanies. About the seventh day, he thought he might venture out by daylight, and at the first village he came to, he heard a mountebank in the middle of the place loudly vaunting his wonderful powers in physic and surgery, offering to cure every disease by one dose of physic only, and to perform any operation, however severe it might be, without putting the patient to any pain whatever. This the Fox thought an excellent opportunity for disguising himself so as not to be known again by his most intimate acquaintances. He approached the mountebank, and told him he wished to have his tail and ears cut off, but as he was unable to pay him for performing the operation, he was ready to serve him for a time in any way he might desire, as a compensation for his trouble. The mountebank, who was quite as glad to find a patient, as the Fox was to find a doctor, told him that if he would allow the operation to be performed in the open place, and then would publicly declare that he had felt no pain while it was being performed, he would not only charge him nothing for his trouble, but would even reward him handsomely. When this was agreed to, the mountebank set to work, and very speedily deprived Reynardine of his ears and tail, who bore the pain without so much as a wink, being resolved to earn his promised reward. When the blood was stanched, the Fox made the public declaration required of him, and every day afterwards, until his wounds were quite healed, he appeared on the mountebank's stage, and applauded the great skill and dexterity of his operator.

Reynardine now received his reward, with the assurances of the mountebank that his disguise was such, that his best friend could not by any possibility recognise him. Reynardine then resolved to return once more to his native place. He set out briskly, and soon reached his old haunts again, where he had a practical proof of the truth of the mountebank's assurance; for the first he met was his old acquaintance Brocket, who accosted him as a stranger, and was very desirous of knowing the country and parentage of so extraordinary an animal. Reynardine was much pleased at the success of his disguise, and after a few words, discovered himself to Brocket, who could hardly believe his eyes at the strange look of his old friend, related all his adventures from the time he had last seen Brocket, until the day of their meeting, and begged him to think of some way by which he might earn a livelihood, without exposing himself to the temptations he had yielded to on former occasions.

After a long consultation on the prospects of Reynardine

in his new shape, Brocket delivered his advice in these terms. 'As you have succeeded so ill, my friend, in your profession of a learned doctor, I would recommend you to try a contrary course. Shew yourself simple-hearted, and resolve to know nothing; change your name, and enter into the service of some eminent man; pretend a great love for him, and humour him in all his whims, and you will assuredly rise to good fortune. For the simple excite no envy, while the clever and witty starve for want of bread. Come and see me sometimes in the forest, but if you meet me in the crowd of other beasts, look as though you knew me not, for in this way we can be better friends; the friendship of my family for Reynard, renders an acquaintance with me dangerous to all who bear his name.' Here the friends parted; Brocket returned to his hole, and Reynardine advanced to the more inhabited part of the forest, ruminating on the advice of his old acquaintance, which he determined to improve upon by making it subservient to his revenge against the surviving discoverer of his father's treason. The Leopard he had already destroyed, and he now resolved to proceed to the dwelling of the Panther, and try to enter into his service.

When he reached the spot, he was regarded with much curiosity by all who saw him, and treated with great respect by the household of the Panther, who looked upon him as a foreign traveller, a character much esteemed by their master. He inquired of the porter if he might be admitted to see his lordship; and the porter at once went to his master, and told him that there was at his door a foreigner of extraordinary appearance, who wished to have an audience with him. The Panther immediately directed that he should be introduced, and Reynardine was brought in. As soon as he saw the Panther he made a very low bow, and began: 'I am come, my lord, a long journey of eighteen months' rapid travelling, excited by the desire of seeing this happy kingdom, and enjoying an intercourse with its enlightened inhabitants; among whom your lordship has the greatest name. I am ignorant, but desirous of learning, and for this purpose was I sent by my parents from a country where all are ignorant, to one where knowledge may be found. My parents sent much wealth with me, and a sufficient retinue; but we were attacked by plunderers on our road; my servants stood stoutly against the villains, and all alas! were cruelly slain; I alone escaped, but poor, friendless, and broken hearted. On my arrival in this place, I knew of none to whom I could have recourse before your lordship, of whose nobility, wisdom, and

generosity I had heard so much in my own country: to you, then, I make my humble petition that I may be your servant, ready as I am to perform any office, however low and mean it may be reckoned, for one whose service cannot but do honour to all who are employed in it.'

The Panther, wondering at the uncommon shape of the stranger, and pleased at his flattery, replied, 'It is the wish of our most gracious king and of all his servants, to shew courtesy to strangers, more especially to such as are of good parts and honourable conduct; therefore your request shall not be denied: I am sorry that I cannot prefer you to the state that your education and abilities deserve, but in the mean time stay in my house, stir yourself in my service, in such matters as may be wanting, and if I see you deserving, I will promote you as soon as I find an opportunity.' 'Honourable sir,' replied the Fox with all submission, 'I do not want greatness; all I ask is a poor living under the favour of your protection, of whose virtues I have heard so much, that the meanest office in your kitchen shall be to me an honour.' 'What is thy name?' said the Panther. 'Crabron is the name of my family,' said the Fox; 'this name hath descended to me through an unbroken line for five hundred years, and by none hath it been dishonoured or disgraced.' 'It is well,' replied the Panther: 'be my servant, obey my commands, which shall be few and light, and live in my house; and you shall be advanced, as your deserts and opportunity shall suit.'

Chapter III.—How Reynardine contrived the Panther's death.

Reynardine was delighted at his success; he was now well found in bed and board, and he had nothing to do, but to obey a few trifling commands, which required but little care or time; but in these he shewed such a zeal and earnestness, and pretended such a kindness towards the old Panther, that he became quite a favourite. When he had been in this situation about four months, the Panther's confidential servant and secretary was preferred to the service of the king himself, and the Panther was resolved to give the office to Reynardine, whom he called before him. 'Crabron,' said he, 'my head servant, who was next my own person, is removed from my service to a more honourable office at court. Since you have been with me, I have had every reason to be satisfied with your attentions;

and according to my promise, I now give the vacant office to you: be faithful and diligent as he was, and on some future occasion I may advance you, as I have done him.' 'My lord,' replied the Fox humbly, 'I trust you shall never have reason to think your favour ill bestowed on me.' Thus the Fox became close attendant on the unhappy Panther, whose death he was so desirous to bring about, and whom he was determined to destroy as soon he could do it with safety to himself.

It was not long before an opportunity presented itself of carrying his wicked intentions into effect. The Panther had been invited to a feast at court, where he ate so heartily that he got a surfeit, and returned home very unwell. He sent immediately for Baldwin the Ass, who had regained his lost favour when Dr Pedanto ran away. Baldwin ordered a warm bath, gave a strong dose of physic, and left a gallon of what he called a diet-drink, of which his patient was ordered to swallow one sixth part every four hours. The Panther was desirous that no one should come near him but Crabron, who was directed by the Ass in what way the draught should be administered. As soon as Baldwin was gone, the Fox went to the garden, where he gathered the plants which he knew were most poisonous to be eaten: such as monkshood, wolfsbane, and aconite; of these he pressed out the juices, and mixed them up in large quantity with the draught about to be taken by his sick master, most of which he threw away to make room for the deadly infusion. When the hour came for the administration of the first dose, the hypocritical Fox, with looks of infinite concern, approached the bed of the Panther, and speaking as softly as he could, 'Here my lord,' said he, 'take the good mixture, which will restore an excellent subject to his king, and the best of masters to his unworthy servants.' The Panther took the draught with a sorrowful countenence and swallowed it all. Now was the Fox glad; he saw his victim before him at the point of death, and he rejoiced with a malignant joy at the accomplishment of his wicked designs. Very soon the Panther grew worse: violent pains came on, and in a few hours he breathed his last in the presence of Baldwin, who had been sent for in the hope of procuring him relief. Then the Fox, in the presence of the household of the Panther, began to weep and howl, and shew all the outward signs of grief: 'Oh! my good master,' cried he, 'that I were dead in thy stead! then would not a whole house be afflicted with despair, nor a nation with just grief. Suddenly hast thou departed, my dear lord, so suddenly, that had I not watched by thy bedside

without remission since thy first sickness, had I not carefully seen to the administration of every remedy ordered by the learned physician, I should have my suspicions of foul play. But we have the satisfaction of having done all that art could do: a body weakened by long service in the cause of the king could not resist the attack of disease, however great the skill, and unremitting the attention of Dr Baldwin, as I can most truly affirm.' Baldwin, hearing this, and glad to find he was not blamed for the Panther's death, now chimed in: 'There is no antidote against death: and the patient's time was come: there can be no doubt that he died according to the rules of physic; yet my cares were incessant for his welfare, and in Crabron he hath had every service that the most faithful friend could supply: but all must have an end.' The servants of the Panther, and the young lord also, expressed their satisfaction with what had been done. All now left the apartment except the Fox, who would not leave the body, but staid by it until they buried it; and then he lay down upon the grave, and howled piteously over it, both to conceal his pleasure at the gratification of his revenge, and to attract notice by the loudness of his grief. He continued this course of hypocrisy for many days, during which nearly all the beasts of the forest came to see him, admiring and praising his great love for his deceased master. The report of this behaviour at length reached the ears of the Lion, who was much pleased to hear of such an attachment, and very desirous to secure such a servant for himself. He therefore sent for the Fox, greatly commended his fidelity, and offered him a place among his own servants, which Reynardine accepted with the humblest expressions of gratitude.

Reynardine was now at the height of his glory; he had revenged his fancied wrongs on the Leopard and the Panther, and he was in a place of high honour and profit, in which he had nothing to do but to enjoy himself and eat whatever he desired. After he had been some time in his new state, he thought of paying a visit to his old friend Brocket, and in consequence he took advantage of the first fine day, to take a stroll into the forest, where he soon found him, loitering about his old haunts.

These two worthies had much talk together about Reynardine's success in his last shape, at the recital of which Brocket was very much astonished; he protested that, with all his admiration of Reynardine's great talents, and with all his knowledge of the ease with which people are led by those who pretend an affection for them, he had not thought the Fox's flattery would have raised him to so high a pitch.

He could not help making Reynardine again repeat to him the account of Baldwin's visit to the Panther, of his surprise when he found that his patient was dead, and of the success of his own loud lamentations; and he declared that he would not wish to have a better teacher in the ways of the world than the son of Reynard. The two friends were long very merry upon all these matters, and at last parted with assurances of seeing each other again soon: Brocket to his hole, and Reynardine to court.

But the Fox was not aware how near was the discovery of all his wickedness, and how, when he was exulting in his elevation, his lowest downfal was preparing. All the while that he was relating the story of his adventures, when he was dilating upon the good nature of the Panther, and the foolish kindness of the king, he did not know that very near him, just behind a hedge of tangled briars, there lay Quickscent, the king's favourite Lurcher, who was daily admitted to the familiar conversation of the royal Lion.

Quickscent had been hunting that morning from the break of day; he was tired with the chase and the heat of the weather, and he had lain down for a little repose. He lost not a word of all that passed, though he moved not, being anxious to hear to an end. He was not afraid of bursting out and facing the villains, but he thought it better to proceed as secretly as possible, that he might warn the king, and secure Reynardine before he had time to run away. He therefore waited until both were far out of sight, and then made the best of his way to the court, where he took the earliest opportunity to see the king, and to disclose to him what a murderer and traitor he had been cherishing and advancing. The Lion was alarmed and shocked at this news, which he hardly believed; but he gave instant orders that the Fox should be arrested. Here again Reynardine's cunning saved him from his merited punishment; he had seen Quickscent as he was running back from the forest, and with that suspicion which haunts the guilty, he feared some discovery, he knew not what nor whence. With this view he had lurked near Quickscent, watched his eagerness to be admitted into the Lion's presence, and when there, had listened to their conversation through a cranny in the door. The first words informed him of the fatal truth, that all his villany was discovered; he instantly departed from the court, and before the order was given for his arrest, he was already far away and journeying towards Pitwood, formerly the domain of Isgrim the Wolf, but now the abode of Chanticleer and his

family, to whom the king had given it when the treason of Isgrim was discovered.

Chapter IV.—The capture, condemnation, and execution of Reynardine.

WHEN Reynardine found himself safe in Pitwood, he was not a little glad; for he knew that when the Lion gave the domain to old Chanticleer, he issued a proclamation forbidding all the beasts of the forest from entering the grounds, or molesting any of the dwellers therein. The Fox took up his abode in Isgrim's dwelling, which was abandoned, and partly in ruins. All the day after his arrival here he was compelled to fast, but as soon as the night came he sallied forth, found out the roosting places of the chickens, and made a plentiful meal of them; when he was satisfied, he ran about the fields, and picked up a good bag full of barley, oats, and other grain, and carried it to his hiding place. Early the next morning he scattered some of this grain in spots near the place, as a bait to Chanticleer's family, who did not fail to pick them up, and thus became a prey to the gluttony of Reynardine, who kept a good look out for them. In this way he lived in plenty for about a fortnight, when old Chanticleer, who had with grief and surprise observed the gradual diminution of his offspring, determined to watch them closely, and count their numbers every evening at roosting time. He thus found out that the cause of their destruction lay hid somewhere about Isgrim's dwelling, and he consequently resolved to hover about the entrance of the place by night and day, until he should see the destroyer. This plan succeeded. Reynardine was soon discovered creeping slily out by moonlight, and anxiously looking for the approach of his victims, who had been far less plenty from the moment when old Chanticleer's suspicions were roused. The odd shape of the unknown depredator struck Chanticleer with alarm; such a strange beast, without ears or tail, he had never seen; and he resolved at once to give information to the king of all that had occurred.

Chanticleer, as soon as it was daylight, set out on his mission, and had not gone far when he luckily met with young Fyrapel, who was going a hunting with a long train of attendants. He instantly flew to him, and began a set speech, which he had prepared for the king. 'My honoured lord,' said he, 'I am compelled by distress of mind, and danger to myself and family, to address your lordship, and

beg your powerful aid. A strange beast, without ears or tail hath for these three weeks haunted our neighbourhood, and killed a hundred of my grand-children, and great-grand-children. I have never seen a beast like him, so uncouth is he.' Here he was interrupted by the Leopard, who at once guessed that it was the murderer of his father, whose escape from the court had been very much talked of all over the forest. 'How big was this strange beast?' he asked. 'About as big as a fox,' replied Chanticleer. 'Enough,' said the Leopard, 'I know him, and he shall not escape. You, Chanticleer, keep all quiet, and say not a word of what you have now told me, that he may not be alarmed and take flight. This night, or early to-morrow, I will be here with a large party, and it shall go hard but we will take the traitor alive, and bring him to public punishment for his villanies. He is well known, and has been for these three weeks diligently sought after, but all in vain. Say no more, but expect me shortly.'

On his return to the court, Fyrapel immediately obtained an audience of the Lion, to whom he disclosed the news he had heard from Chanticleer. The king was much pleased to hear it, and he commanded the Leopard to get together a large party, and to be sure to take Quickscent with him; then to advance to Pitwood with all possible haste, and to bring away Reynardine alive. The Leopard obeyed this summons with joy; and in less than twelve hours a sufficient troop was assembled, and on their way to the place. They arrived on the spot just as the day began, and completely surrounded the castle of Isgrim, which they searched through and through in every nook and corner, but could not find their fugitive. In fact, Reynardine, always watchful, had heard their approach, had taken flight on the first alarm, and was already at some distance from the troop. Without the aid of Quickscent, he would certainly have got off scatheless; but the sagacious beast perceived his departure almost on the instant, and had followed the scent with that persevering diligence which nothing could escape. In the mean time, Sir Fyrapel was in despair at the flight of Reynardine, and was about to take a cruel vengeance on Chanticleer for his disappointment, when he missed Quickscent. On making inquiries, he was told by one of the party, that Quickscent had been seen to start off suddenly in a straight line in a certain direction, which he pointed out. The Leopard now guessed at the truth, and was much pleased at having brought the Lurcher with him. He then drew off all the party from the castle, and followed the direction which Quickscent had taken; observing also to

detach little parties on both sides of the line of march, to give any assistance that might be required by Quickscent, or perhaps to intercept Reynardine, in case the Lurcher should miss him. About noon, when the main body was resting under a thicket, Fyrapel had the satisfaction of seeing one of his little detachments come in with Reynardine close prisoner, followed by Quickscent, who had caught the Fox after a long and intricate chase, in which all the resources of cunning and skill had been used by both parties.

When the whole body was sufficiently rested, Sir Fyrapel began to march towards home, guarding the Fox in the middle of a party of his most watchful soldiers, who had strict orders not once to lose sight of him. They reached the palace before night, where they found the Lion at dinner, who invited Fyrapel and Quickscent to eat with him, while, outside the gate, Reynardine was guarded by the soldiers, who had much ado to preserve him from the multitude, who would have torn him in pieces.

The Leopard related to the king the whole of the events of the day, and his majesty was pleased to express his entire satisfaction. After dinner, he ordered the Fox to be brought before him, and on his appearance he thus addressed him. 'O execrable villain, son of a base traitor, twice was thy false and wicked father pardoned by my royal predecessor for crimes that well deserved death; and in requital he, and I doubt not thou also, traitorously contrived his death and mine, and the extirpation of all the royal line. Thou hast shewn thyself a murderer and an ungrateful servant, like thy father, and doubtless only waited an opportunity, to add treason to thy other crimes. Prepare then to meet the due reward of thy misdeeds; for to-morrow thou shalt die. Take him to prison, and let all be prepared for his public execution.' Reynardine was instantly led off, and the Lion retired without another word.

During the last night of his life, the Fox had time to reflect upon his crimes, and to repent most bitterly his having misapplied his talents in the gratification of his revenge, instead of employing them in gaining for himself the comfort and good name which he had shewn himself so capable of earning. He was fully persuaded that he had now not a chance of escape, and he resolved to make before the king a full confession of all his crimes. After this he slept, until awakened by the guard who came to take him to the place of execution, where he found a vast multitude assembled to witness his last moments. On the arrival of the Lion, who had expressed a wish to be present at the

execution, the Fox requested to be allowed to make his dying speech and confession, which was granted him. He spoke as follows:—

'I, Reynardine, son of Reynard the Fox, declare myself worthy of the death which I am about to suffer, for the many crimes which I have committed, and the opportunities of amendment that I have neglected. One only crime of those alleged against me I can deny, which is any participation in my father's treason; of that I knew nothing, until the morning when he returned with his soldiers to Malepardus; he then told me that he had hoped to be king, but that he was prevented by the Panther and Leopard, whom he charged me to lose no opportunity of putting to death, if ever I should have the power to do so; a charge which I have too fatally followed, and which is the cause of my disgrace and death. On that same day he sent me and my brother Rossel to a distant place, with a large quantity of treasure, hoping to join us when his danger should be past; but in this he was disappointed, and his death is well known to all. In a few days after our leaving Malepardus, we were robbed of all our treasure by the Bear, the Wolf, and the Tiger; my brother was killed by the same beasts; but I escaped.

'After some time I was received into a charitable house, where I staid some time, and was well fed; but I rewarded the kindness I was treated with, by stealing the property of the owners, and I was in consequence deservedly dismissed. I then began to practise the medical art, as is well known; and in this practice I basely murdered old Sir Fyrapel, under pretence of administering an anodyne draught, which caused him to sleep for ever. After this I entered into the service of the Panther, and for some time I was a faithful servant to him; but the spirit of vengeance was too strong for me, and I purposely mixed the juices of poisonous herbs in the medicine prepared for him by his physician, and he died like the Leopard. These are my greatest crimes, though many others I have committed, like all our race; but none of sufficient importance to be repeated in these my last moments. I now take my leave of all, and hope my bad end may be a warning to others from indulging in those wicked feelings which have been my ruin.'

The king now commanded the executioner to do his office. When Reynardine was dead, he was taken from the gallows, and his head cut off, and set upon the gate of Sir Fyrapel's palace, as a warning to future offenders. The son of the Panther was very desirous to have the head placed over his gate; but the Panther's dwelling was

too near the court, and in such a place it could not be permitted.

After this the king issued a very severe edict, prohibiting any of the Fox's lineage from approaching the court, within ten miles: but in this case the proclamation was ineffectual; for no laws, how severe soever, can hinder that artful race from insinuating themselves into all societies, high and low, as experience daily manifests.

END OF THE HISTORY.

Parker's

Collections in Popular

Literature.

Collections in Popular Literature,

publishing by

John W. Parker, West Strand,

London.

IT has frequently been suggested to the Publisher, that he might render an acceptable service to the friends of Education, and greatly assist those who desire to promote the intellectual amusement of the people, by producing a series of Popular Books, at low prices, calculated, by their unexceptionable tendency, for general use in families; from which School Libraries might be formed, Reward Books selected, and Lending Libraries supplied; which, on account of their convenient form and size, would be welcome as Fireside and Travelling Companions; books, in short, which might be found instructive and entertaining wherever introduced.

These suggestions he is now carrying out, in compliance with certain conditions, namely, that the works produced shall be unexceptionable in subject and in treatment; that the series be sufficiently varied to meet the requirements of all classes of readers; and that each book shall be complete in itself, and procurable for a very small sum.

The COLLECTIONS IN POPULAR LITERATURE will, therefore, embrace most of the features of an Encyclopædia, though the subjects will not be divided into fragments, or scattered over many volumes; each subject being treated with fulness and completeness, and its information brought up to the present time.

The Plan will embrace new and improved Editions of

certain Standard English books, but the majority of the works will be newly written, translated, compiled, or abridged, for the present purpose; and the volumes will appear from time to time in sufficient variety to extend simultaneously, and in due proportion, the various branches of Popular Literature. The whole will be prepared with an especial view to the diffusion of sound opinions—to the promulgation of valuable facts and correct principles—and to the due indulgence of general literary taste.

It is not intended that this series shall form a periodical, according to the strict acceptation of that term. Several works are already published, and others will quickly follow; they will all be uniformly bound in cloth and lettered. There will be no necessary connection between the various works, except as regards general appearance, and each, being complete in itself, may be had separately; nevertheless, the volumes, distinct, yet uniform in their object, will together form a valuable library, and may be collected and classified under the following heads:

I. Popular History.

Under the comprehensive title of History, we purpose giving an extensive series of interesting and instructive works. Among these will be carefully-considered narratives of some of those moral tempests which have so often agitated the world, when men have continued a long course of disobedience to the laws of God and the recognised laws of man. We shall make it our business to record the change of a dynasty, the rise and career of a monarch, a usurper, or a ruler, whose actions have thrown a new aspect on the political institutions of a country; we shall trace the rise and progress of great commercial or manufacturing enterprises, whereby the wealth and prosperity of a nation have been obviously increased; we shall notice the

train of events whereby the prevalent or established religion of a country has been changed. These and other subjects of a like character will enable us to bring up many stores from a mine peculiarly rich in instructive and entertaining matter.

It is of course impossible, in such a notice as this, to include all the features of so important a division of our COLLECTIONS IN POPULAR LITERATURE as History; but some idea may be formed of it from the following list of works which are nearly ready for publication:

A History of the Invasion of Russia by Napoleon Bonaparte. 2*s.* 6*d.*

The Lord and his Vassal: a Familiar Exposition of the Feudal System in the Middle Ages; with its Causes and Consequences.

A History of the French Revolution; its Causes and Consequences. Newly written for this Collection.

The Ruins of Rome and their Historical Associations; including an Account of the Modern City and its Inhabitants.

The Private Life, Manners, and Customs of the Ancient Romans. From the French of D'Arnay; carefully edited, and forming a valuable work for study or amusement.

Constantinople and its Historical Associations; with some Account of its Institutions and the Manners and Customs of the People.

History of the Rise and Progress of the Trading Communities of the Middle Ages.

Trading Communities of Modern Times; a Popular View of the Origin, Structure, and General Tendency of the Joint-Stock Trading and Commercial Bodies of Modern Times.

The Ruins of Athens and their Historical Associations; with Notices of the Modern City and its Inhabitants.

A History of London, Ancient and Modern.

A History of the Endowed Schools of Great Britain.

The Incas of Peru, with some Account of the Ruins of their Greatness.

A popular History of the British Army.

A popular History of the British Navy.

II. Popular Biography.

One of the most useful and pleasing forms under which knowledge can be presented to the general reader is that of the Biography of distinguished men, who have contributed to the progress of that knowledge in some one or other of its various departments. But it too frequently happens, that the biographical notices of great men consist rather of personal, trivial, and unimportant details, than of a clear and broad outline of the influence which they exerted upon the pursuit and upon the age in which they were distinguished. The true object of Biography is, while tracing the progress of an individual, to show not only what result his active life has produced on the well-being of his fellow-men, but also the position which he occupies as one of the "great landmarks in the map of human nature."

Yet we are not satisfied with a biography which regards its subject in his public capacity alone: we are naturally curious to ascertain whether the same qualities which rendered him celebrated in public, followed him likewise into private life, and distinguished him there. We regard with interest, in his private capacity, the man who has been the originator of much public good: we look with an attentive eye on his behaviour when he stands alone, when his native impulses are under no external excitement; when he is, in fact, "in the undress of one who has retired from the stage on which he felt he had a part to sustain."

But a detail of the public and private events in the life of a distinguished man, do not alone suffice to form a just estimate of his character. The reader requires to be made acquainted with the state of a particular branch of knowledge, at the time when the individual appeared, whose efforts extended its boundaries. Without this it is impossible to estimate the worth of the man, or the blessings and advantages conferred upon society by his means.

On the other hand, in tracing the history of any particular branch of knowledge, unless connected with Biography, we lose sight of individual efforts; they are mingled with the labours of others, or are absorbed into the history of the whole, and are consequently no longer individualized: hence we are likely to fail in recognising the obligations due to our distinguished countrymen, or to deprive of their just merit those of our foreign brethren, whose useful lives have influenced distant lands as well as their own.

With these views it is proposed that each Biography shall consist of three distinct portions:

1 The history of a particular department of knowledge, up to the time when the individual appeared by whom its boundaries were extended.

2 A *general* sketch of the life of such individual, with *particular* details of the improvements effected by him.

3 The progress of such branch of knowledge, from the date of such improvements up to our own times.

The following subjects will be immediately published:

Smeaton and Lighthouses.

Sir Joseph Banks and the Royal Society.

Sir Humphrey Davy and the Safety Lamp.

Linnæus and Jussieu; or, the Rise and Progress of Systematic Botany.

Cuvier and his Works; or the Rise and Progress of Zoology.

Brindley and Canals.

Watt and the Steam-engine.

Wedgwood and Pottery.

Telford and Roads and Bridges.

Caxton and the Printing Press.

Galileo and the Telescope.

Sir Isaac Newton and the Progress of Astronomical Discovery.

Sir Christopher Wren and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Addison and the English Essayists.

Jeremy Taylor and some Account of his Times and Works.

Wilberforce and the Slave Trade.

Each work being a Popular Biography, with an Historical Introduction and Sequel.

III. Popular Science and Art.

When we contemplate the arts and processes of civilized life, we cannot but be struck with the vast amount of invention and ingenuity required for their gradual development. Not an article of clothing or of furniture, not an instrument, implement, or machine, could have been brought to the state in which we find it, without many successive steps of invention, due to different minds, supplied at different times, and brought to light in different countries. But in devoting several of our volumes to the Useful Arts, we shall not be unmindful of the fact, that Art is the application of Science to a practical end. It is proposed, therefore, under the comprehensive title of *Popular Science and Art*, to include portions of our knowledge of animate and inanimate nature. The object will be to assist the general reader to regard with an intelligent eye the varied phenomena of nature, to gratify the laudable desire of understanding what he sees, and of preparing him in some measure to enter more fully upon the study of a given subject. In this way, it is hoped to effect a useful purpose, by connecting Science and the Useful Arts; for "is is not, surely, in the country of Arkwright, that the Philosophy of Commerce can be thought independent of Mechanics; and where Davy has delivered lectures on Agriculture, it would be folly to say that the most philosophic views of Chemistry were not conducive to the making our valleys laugh with corn."

The works already prepared, or in course of preparation, for this division, comprise the following subjects:

The Useful Arts employed in the Production of Food. 2*s.* 6*d.*

The Useful Arts employed in the Production of Clothing. 2*s.* 6*d.*

The Useful Arts employed in the Construction of Dwelling Houses.

The Writing-Desk and its Contents, taken as a Text for the Familiar Illustration of many important Facts in Experimental Science. 2s.

Examples of Mechanical Ingenuity.

The Philosophy of the External Senses.

Ancient and Modern Modes of Measuring Time, with curious Illustrations of the application of Clockwork.

The Rise and Progress of Agriculture.

The Natural History of Birds and Insects injurious to Farming and Gardening.

The Wonders of the Microscope.

Mathematical Magic.

The Fine Arts will also form an interesting portion of this division. The object will be, in a few popular histories, to trace the origin, rise, and progress of Sculpture, Painting, Engraving, Music, &c., and their influence on mankind.

IV. Popular Voyages and Travels.

Few subjects are more attractive than the narratives of celebrated travellers. Although they tell us of beings who speak another tongue, inhabit a different clime, differ altogether from ourselves in manners, customs, dress, and institutions—yet the sympathy which man feels for his fellows makes us delight in all the details which talent and enterprise procure for us. The personal narrative of the traveller has also a great charm; we seem to participate in his dangers, excitements, and pleasures; we add to our knowledge in his company; and the truth and sincerity which pervade the narrative, make us feel a personal interest in the narrator. It is intended to reprint some of the narratives of our old English Navigators, especially those of Discoveries, which have had most influence on the progress of Geographical Knowledge. It will not be an objection that these eminent men lived at a period of time distant from our own; for their Narratives are full of truth, told with plain simplicity.

But the important labours of modern travellers will not be forgotten. In describing several interesting portions of the earth's surface, we shall avail ourselves of the most trustworthy individuals, and by a careful comparison of statements and details, we hope to present graphic descriptions of some of the most celebrated countries of the world; as well as of those which have only of late years been explored. Many voyages of discovery have had their proceedings recorded in large quartos, the price of which places them above the reach of the general reader, while their scientific details render them unfit for popular use: a digest of these works, containing an epitome of the lighter portions, and the results of the scientific discoveries, may prove acceptable.

The following works are being prepared for publication:

The Life, Adventures, and Discoveries of Captain William Dampier; including a History of the Buccaneers of America.
Captain Cook and the Circumnavigation of the Globe.
An Overland Journey and a Steam Voyage to India.
Voyages and Discoveries in the South Polar Regions.
Voyages and Discoveries in the Northern Polar Regions.
Voyages and Discoveries in Australasia and Polynesia.

To these will be added digests of Travels and Adventures in various Countries of the Old and New Worlds.

V. Popular Tales and Fiction.

The design of this Collection embraces many favourite old works, which, though containing much that has instructed and delighted our predecessors, are, nevertheless, but ill adapted in their original form for general perusal. Among these may be reckoned some works of fiction, the excellencies of which are often obscured by a grossness of style not uncommon at the time when they were composed,

but which justly excludes them from family reading in the present day. Such works would be acceptable if freed from objectionable passages; and in undertaking to accomplish this reform, without detriment to the spirit of the original, the Publisher relies on the approbation of a large class of persons, who will thus be enabled to place in the hands of the young, purified editions of those romantic and interesting tales which are naturally sought for by youthful readers, whose hands they might otherwise reach, tainted with their original impurities. Every work will be prepared for this series by a careful editing, in order to suit the general tone of thought, principle, and feeling which will pervade the whole Collection, and no work will be admitted, the name of whose author is associated with considerations painful to Christian feeling, good taste, or propriety.

Among the new works intended to be included in this division, may be mentioned a series of tales, illustrative of the manners and customs of the people of different climes. Of these, the following, among others, are ready for early publication:

Norah Toole, a Tale of Ireland; My Son Mike, or, the Irish Emigrant in the United States; and Rob Maxwell, a Tale of the Highlands of Scotland.

The Spanish Merchant and his Daughter, or, Life in Spain; a Tale illustrative of Domestic Manners and Customs.

Van-ti, or, Life in China; The Leicesters, or, Life in Hindostan.

The Merchant and the Friar; or, Truths and Fictions of the Middle Ages. A New Edition, revised by the Author.

The Life and Adventures of Peter Wilkins, a Cornish Man. Carefully revised and corrected.

The most Delectable History of Reynard the Fox; an old Romance, thoroughly revised and corrected.

The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, newly revised; with a new Introduction, and Illustrations.

VI. Popular Miscellanies.

Under this head will be published, works of a miscellaneous nature which do not fall strictly under any of the foregoing divisions, or which may include several of those divisions. Among the former may be mentioned a short series of works on in-door and out-door amusements, the object of which is to furnish young persons with sources of amusement, innocent in their kind, and healthful in their application both to mind and body. Among the in-door amusements may be mentioned a volume which is nearly ready for publication on the game of Chess. Experience has shown that where Chess is introduced as an amusement into families and schools, it exerts a highly beneficial influence, by exciting a taste for more exalted sources of recreation than are afforded by *games of chance*, which so far from producing a beneficial influence on the mind, are apt to disturb the temper, excite animosity, and foster a spirit of gambling. Chess, on the contrary, is an effort of pure skill; it gives healthy exercise to the mental powers; it requires caution and forbearance on the part of both players; it leaves the victor satisfied with having won the game without the additional stimulus of 'a stake;' and it entails no humiliation on the vanquished, but rather prompts him to greater exertions. We propose, therefore, to give the history and antiquities of the game of Chess, together with a series of Easy Lessons, the object of which will be to make the young student acquainted with a few of the leading features of the principal openings, that he may form some idea of the richness of the territory of Chess, and to add a selection of Chess Problems. Chess Problems form one of the most attractive departments of the game; they enable us, more perhaps than anything else, to appreciate the subtle skill and resources of a first-

rate player, and tend to elevate Chess to the rank of mathematical science.

Among the works which include several of the foregoing divisions, is one in four volumes, illustrating the Progress of the Year, wherein the information given is arranged under the form of Daily Readings. All the varied phenomena of nature; the animals, the plants, the minerals, assume different phases, according to the means and acquirements of the observer, the progress of science, and the climate under which the descriptions are given. As science advances, the descriptions of naturalists admit of modification and addition, in order to keep pace with the progress of discovery; hence our Year-books require renewal from time to time. The present is an attempt to furnish a seasonal account of the natural phenomena of the year, in conformity with the present state of knowledge. The work, however, will not be confined to natural history, but will be varied with notices of the arts, antiquities, manners and customs of our native country; choice selections from our prose writers and poets; and a series of papers expressly adapted for Sunday reading, so that on whatever day, and at whatever season, the book be taken up, something appropriate of an instructive and amusing nature may be found, calculated either for family reading, or solitary perusal, as a fireside manual, or a travelling pocket companion.

The following works are intended for early publication:

Chronicles of the Seasons, or the Progress of the Year; being a Course of Daily Instruction and Amusement from the Popular Details of the Natural History, Science, Art, Antiquities, and Biography of our Father Land. In Four Books. Book the First, containing the Months of January, February, and March. 3*s.* 6*d.*

The History, Antiquities, and Curiosities of the Game of Chess; including a Selection of Games, illustrative of the Various Openings, Analyzed and Explained for the use of Young Players; together with a Choice Selection of Chess Problems.

The Sea—the Highway of the World; or the History and Practice of Navigation in Ancient and Modern Times, familiarly explained.

The Houses of all Nations; or some Account, Historical and Descriptive, of the Progress of National and Domestic Architecture in all Parts and Ages of the World.

The Games and Sports of the Ancients and Moderns.

An Account of Shipwrecks, Fires, and other Calamities, at Sea.

The works named in this Prospectus are those only which will immediately appear. Other works will from time to time continue to be added to each of the several divisions of the COLLECTIONS IN POPULAR LITERATURE.